

HSC input 24/09/2020

- ESI - Disinfection robots (*information from the Commission*)
 - *Geen input*

- Rapid risk assessment COVID-19
 - *Geen input*

- Quarantine period for COVID-19 (*for discussion*)
 - *In the Netherlands, the quarantine period for persons that were in 'close contact' with COVID-19 patients as well as returning travelers from risk areas and persons with a notification of the 'CoronamelderApp' (now in test phase) was shortened from 14 to 10 days.*
 - *The decision to shorten the quarantine period was based on contact tracing data that is being collected by local public health services and is analyzed and monitored by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).*
 - *According to the RIVM, of patients that developed COVID-19 symptoms after their last contact with an infected person, 99% developed those symptoms within 10 days. Furthermore, in only 5% of COVID-19 cases that developed after last contact with an infected person, symptoms started after a period of 6 days.*
 - *These results indicate that the large majority of COVID-19 cases develop within 10 days after last contact with an infected person. In other words, the likelihood that an asymptomatic person can spread COVID-19 after 10 days is very small.*
 - *Simultaneously, literature study by the RIVM found that 97,5% of COVID-19 cases showed a maximum incubation period of 11-12 days.*
 - *The Outbreak Management Team (OMT) weighed these findings against the societal burden of quarantine and advised the Dutch government to shorten the quarantine period to from 14 to 10 days.*

- Follow-up to the Commission Communication on short-term preparedness for COVID-19 – Action areas: support to vulnerable groups, supply of medical countermeasures, influenza preparedness (*update from countries and discussion*)

Influenza preparedness

- *NL shares the importance of reducing the pressure that seasonal flu puts on health systems.*
- *NL has therefore prepared itself in different ways for the coming flu season. This autumn, the Netherlands will be drawing extra attention to influenza vaccination through various channels, including social media.*
- *Specific attention is paid to increasing the vaccination coverage in healthcare settings and among healthcare workers.*
- *Additional vaccines were purchased to prepare for a possible higher turnout due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *Advice and tips for safe implementation of influenza vaccination at the time of COVID-19 have been developed*

- *It has been examined whether it could be worthwhile to bring forward the influenza vaccination campaign in 2020. Based on historical data of influenza epidemics in the Netherlands, this does not seem beneficial*
- *In the Netherlands we often only see a flu epidemic from week 52. Therefore, influenza only circulates to a very limited extent in the months of September to November.*
- *The timing of the implementation of the influenza vaccine has been chosen in such a way that it is in line with expected moment of the flu wave in the Netherlands.*
- *The vaccine response first increases after vaccination, but decreases again thereafter. With early vaccination it is likely that the vaccine response in vaccinated people will no longer be optimal when a flu epidemic actually prevails in the Netherlands.*

- Recognition of COVID-19 tests in the EU (*for discussion - DE*)
 - *PM RIVM*

- European BARDA – agency for biomedical advanced research and development (*for discussion*)
 - *Geen input*

- AOB
 - Mink are infected with the corona virus at several mink farms in the Netherlands.
 - The virus has been found on 55 mink farms in the provinces of North Brabant, Limburg and Gelderland. In a number of cases humans have been infected by mink.
 - All mink on infected farms are culled. The hygiene measures have proven to be insufficient to prevent new infections.
 - The Outbreak Management Team Zoonoses therefore advised to terminate mink farming in The Netherlands permanently before the end of this year.
 - In the long term, there is a risk that the virus will continue to circulate on the farms. These companies can thus form a source of new infections for humans and animals.
 - Other member states have mink farms as well. Have they implemented measures to prevent mink becoming a source of infection?