

Input NL HSC – 5/5

1. Update on Emergency Support Instrument and Clearing House

Update, geen input nodig

2. Exit strategies (VWS)

Most measures are extended until the 19th of May. All public events will be cancelled until the 1st of September. As the role of children in the transmission chain is considered to be limited, primary schools and day care facilities will reopen again on the 11th of May. The sizes of the classes will be halved, so children will physically attend school approximately 50% of the time. The other 50% will remain distance learning. High schools will prepare for students to gradually return from the 2nd of June, if circumstances will allow a reopening by then.

3. Vaccination strategy (VWS)

How advanced are Member States plans on immunisation, clinical trials and discussions/plans for increasing manufacturing capacity for COVID-19 vaccines?

Currently, we are drafting plans for research, vaccine development, manufacture and immunisation. The Health Council will advise on a passive and immunisation strategy that includes risk group priorities and the optimisation of group immunity

Do Member States have information on COVID-19 vaccine doses needed in their countries? Status of immunisation plans? EU approach wanted?

Many very relevant questions cannot be answered at this stage since there is no vaccine available yet. If an “emergency” vaccine becomes available we might start with an immunisation programme for health care workers. Given the high demand, how many doses will become available and who will benefit most on an individual and societal level? We have asked the Health Council to be prepared to start their advisory procedure as soon as more information becomes available.

What methodology will Member States use to define the doses needed, target population, timelines of administration and the qualified staff?

Our National Immunisation Programme will provide the infrastructure for an immunisation campagne. We will monitor the developments carefully and adjust our structure where necessary.

Do Member States consider using the joint procurement agreement for COVID-19 vaccines?

Cooperation and coordination on an EU level are key to a successful approach. We will consider using a joint procurement agreement. NL is interested to learn more about the framework of such an approach.

4. Cross-border support in health care (RIVM)

Are any constraints or challenges countries see in participating in the exchange of information via EWRS for the cross-border exchange of patients and health care personnel?

The Netherlands is of opinion that the EWRS system might be less suitable for sharing this kind of information. EWRS is an early warning rapid response system, while in this care communication regarding operational care is needed. The system could be used for individual cases however, for extensive communication about clinical patients and staff, a different channels might be needed.

5. Kawasaki-like disease in children with possible connection to COVID-19

Geen input

6. ECDC document 'Support on EC guidelines on the tourism sector' (RIVM)

The Netherlands welcomes this document providing support on EC guidelines on the tourism sector. The measures taken in the tourism sector in the Netherlands should comply with the measures taken by the Dutch authorities, but the document could provide excellent starting point for conversations with the sector. Physical distancing is key to the Dutch approach, which should be secured in the tourism sector as well, eg. with the use of plexiglass shields. The use of face masks for the general public is currently not advised in the Netherlands.

7. AOB (VWS)

We would like to follow-up on the topic of the EU travel restrictions in place in Schengen until May 15. If these measures are lifted without consulting MS this will lead to problems. We would like to discuss with MS about a coordinated approach regarding high risk countries, travel restrictions and the measures to be taken in response to the lifting of measures. This could be a topic for discussion at the next HSC audio meeting.