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5.1.2e

RIVM

5.1.2e

Date: 24th February, 2021

**Subject: Pneumovax23, Contract Supply 2021**

Dear 5.1.2e

With this letter I am writing you in response to your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> February regarding the potential limitations on the provision of Pneumovax23 in 2021.

As you identified, my colleagues and I have engaged proactively with your team over recent months in the interests of finding sustainable ways of working and to better understand and predict demand levels for the National Immunisation Programmes for which we are currently contracted.

As you will know the production of vaccines is both a complex and fragile process involving long lead times to deliver a high quality and reliable products. The balance of this reality with changing National Policy priorities and the unpredictable nature of public uptake creates the challenge for both our teams to ensure the right level of supply is delivered, at the right time, for the programme.

Due to COVID19, 2020 has been an extraordinary year. MSD has seen significant increase in the demand for Pneumovax23 as Public Health systems around the world have realized the benefits of adult Pneumococcal vaccination to protect vulnerable populations. As a global company we have stated our ambition to meet these needs across the world.

As you state in your letter, at MSD, we too look forward to the continuation of a fruitful co-operation with the RIVM in the interests of protecting public health. Our contractual arrangement provides for large variation and hence timely and transparent discussions to arrive at predicted levels of supply are a necessity.

Kamer van Koophandel  
Reg. No. 34028461

MSD operates to the highest standards of ethics and integrity we understand our contractual obligations. Although it has not been easy my colleagues have been working very hard to be able to secure a further commitment across our global network to meet your requirements of the maximum contracted volumes in 2021. This has meant allocation has had to come from other countries, which is a concern to MSD.

As a result of this work, I can confirm that we will meet the requested volume of <sup>5.1.1c</sup>5.1.2b doses of Pneumovax23 this year. My colleagues under the leadership of <sup>5.1.2e</sup> will work with your team to finalise the delivery schedules and confirm the final arrangements.

I request, that while not explicit in our contract, our teams work together in April 2021 to clarify the estimated demand of the Netherlands for the year 2022 so that MSD may work to co-ordinate our global supply.

Finally, with the high global demand for this important vaccine during this global pandemic, it is important to MSD, that every allocated dose is used for vaccinating patients this year. In this interest, I request that your team, work with us, to reallocate any unused supply should the vaccines coverage rate (VCR) of the programme in the Netherlands fall below the assumptions you have made.

I trust that we can bring this matter to a close and our teams can co-operate more closely to avoid situations such as this in the future.

Yours sincerely,

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