

Extra COVID-19 capacity for Public Health

Covid-19 has taken up most of the capacity of the public health team over the past 2 months, and that in during a time with no or a limited number of cases. As Covid-19 is expected to circulate in the world and region for months, maybe years, to come, the public health team will need extra capacity to deal with situations of more patients and for situations during which the number of incoming people increases.

The following capacity will be needed:

Short term

Coordination of isolation/quarantine location

Background: incoming travelers and their household contacts are required to self quarantine. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate. Both groups preferably quarantine/isolate in their home/own location. In some situations, this will not be possible (many household contacts in small house, vulnerable household contacts, doubts if restrictions will be adhered to) and persons will be taken to government provided isolation/quarantine locations.

Description: during times when people are staying in government provided locations, coordination is needed for supplies/groceries, cleaning, laundry, daily check-ups and any other task. Direct contact with patients is not likely to occur.

Profile: flexible, can-do person with good people and coordination skills, a car and who can be trained in use of safe hygienic measures to prevent infection. No need for medical background.

Expected need:

- 0 hours per day when no-one staying in government locations
- 1-2 hours/day when 1-2 people staying at locations
- 2-5 hours per day when 3-8 people staying at locations.

Proposal:

Request and train Cheri van Wyke to perform these tasks, under the supervision of Public health and on a as-needed basis. She will invoice PH for actual hours worked per month, at an hourly rate of \$35.

Status: proposal submitted to BC

Support for tasks at Points-of-Entry

Currently, PH professionals are present at harbor and airport when vessels come in to perform safety measures. With only two professionals with a car, the logistics are not always workable.

Description: perform safety measures for boat crew and incoming essential travelers. Instruct incoming travelers of quarantine and organize transport of quarantined people where needed.

Profile: flexible, can-do person with good people and coordination skills, a car and who can be trained in use of safe hygienic measures to prevent infection. No need for medical background.

Expected need: 2-4 hours per week

Proposal:

Request and train Cheri van Wyke to perform these tasks, under the supervision of Public health and on a as-needed basis. She will invoice PH for actual hours worked per month, at an hourly rate of \$35.

Status: proposal submitted to BC.

Medium term

Replacement for nurse Marja

Nurse Marja went on sick leave. Request for replacement has been submitted to BC.

Extra Public health professional

To be able to keep the regular Public Health processes going, it will be needed to have at least one extra public health professional during the covid-19 period.

The formal OMT Caribbean Netherlands made this as strong recommendation for all islands, and the MoH (MoH) incorporated in the roadmap forward.

Description: support in all tasks that follow from the covid-19 threat: testing of potential patients, monitoring of contacts, educating and informing of stake holders and citizens, development and updating of SOP's, registration of activities for surveillance, outreach to hard-to-reach groups, safety measures at points of entry, policy making, interisland coordination of PH measures, etc., etc.

Profile: experienced PH doctor or PH nurse, preferable with a background in 'infectieziektebestrijding'.

Expected need: full time, for at least one year.

Proposal: draft up a 'bijstandverzoek' requesting VWS to provide a PH professional for a fixed amount of time, like they did for SXM and Bonaire. It is likely that professionals can only come for 2-3 months periods, meaning there will be professionals rotating. But we feel this is still better than the alternative: requesting funding with which we can recruit a professional. The recruitment will be difficult for a one year period only, and will take at least 5-6 months before we have someone on island.

Note 1: this could be combined with a 'bijstandverzoek' for implementation of molecular testing on Saba. St Eustatius will likely do similar requests, so a combined request would make sense.

Flex-pool of PES civil servants to support Contact tracing and monitoring

In the situation where there are >40 contacts or travelers in quarantine, it is no longer feasible for the current PH team to perform high quality contact monitoring. It would then be good to have a group of civil servants trained in the tasks so that they can support when needed; competent civil servants that would have essential tasks during an outbreak.

Description: Daily calls to all people in quarantine/isolation; check-ups by phone on physical and mental health status; discuss signals or doubts with PH professionals according to checklist and criteria; register information in database

Profile: detail oriented; experienced with excel and word; good people skills; analytic ability to process information by people in quarantine (knowing when to involve PH professionals)

Suggestions: Lionel Charles, Xiomara Levenstone, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] der Horn, Zelda Meeuwsen,

Expected needs: have at least 4-5 civil servants trained.

- 40-60 people in quarantine, 1 of this group would be needed daily (7 days a week).
- 60-90 people in quarantine, 2 of this group would be needed daily (7 days a week).
- 90-120 people in quarantine, 3 of this group would be needed daily (7 days a week).

Proposal: request proposed civil servants and their department heads if they are willing to be trained and support the PH team when needed.

Extra needs: the workers will need access to phones, computers/laptops and need to be able to access the 'patent data' folders on the shared drive.