

Summary

This plan is based on the recommendation of the OMT (lead by RIVM) of April 24th. In order to adequately respond to the COVID 19 crisis in the second half of 2020 (June-December) the public health system on Sint Maarten needs to be strengthened. It is detailed with an estimated budget, which is the largest challenge in realizing the objectives. A first rough estimation would result in 5 million guilders needed for the upcoming 6 months for the additional costs of the Ministry of Public Health. Recruitment of additional staff with a fit educational background and experience will also be a challenge.

In addition to this plan an additional plan for hospital care (COVID, acute and elective) needs to be developed in collaboration with the hospital and the other partners in the Kingdom.

Budget

Recommendation	Activity	Estimated budget*	Feasibility within 6 month without assistance (1-10)
Monitoring/surveillance	Community outreach testing program (20)	(10)(2b)	
	PCR testing	(10)(2b)	
	Contact and source tracing staff (7)	(10)(2b)	
	Introducing HIS based syndromic surveillance	(10)(2b)	
	Multilingual multimedia awareness and prevention campaign	(10)(2b)	
	Quarantine and isolation facility	(10)(2b)	
Strengthen public health	Hire epidemiologist (1)	(10)(2b)	
	Hire infectious disease doctor (1)	(10)(2b)	
	Hire social nurse (1)	(10)(2b)	
	Ambulance staff (2 drivers, 3 nurses)	(10)(2b)	
Strengthen curative capacity	Additional PPE for	(10)(2b)	

	healthcare sector		
Total		(10)(2b)	

- Costs are based on June-Dec 2020 in Nafli

Recruitment of additional staff

Epidemiologist

Sint Maarten currently is in the process of recruiting an epidemiologist. This person is most likely able to start in June/July of 2020.

Infectious disease doctor

An infectious disease doctor from RIVM is currently assisting CPS, she will stay until July 1st and possibly a few weeks/months more. The position is not on the formation of the Ministry, to be able to recruit this position it would have to be on consultancy basis. Or one of the two youth health care physician positions could be relocated to infectious disease physician. We will most likely not be able to recruit that position locally, the person would have to come from another country. Given this entire process it is not likely we will be able to successfully recruit and employ this position before December 2020.

Social/Public Health Nurse

For contact tracing and follow up of patients an additional 8 staff is needed of which at least one is a social nurse. It is feasible to recruit nurses locally, however unsure of the level and experience of the available persons.

Ambulance staff

COVID 19 has placed extra pressure and tasks on the ambulance department. The ambulance department has currently 5 vacancies, 3 nurses and 2 drivers. It is of extreme importance to fill these vacancies. RAV Brabant is in the process of providing temporary support and relief for the staff.

In addition, more staff would be needed depending on the developments around COVID 19.

Additional COVID staff SMMC

AMI staff is supporting SMMC until September 1st for COVID19 care. After this date support for the COVID care is still anticipated to be needed. Especially if the borders will reopen. A plan for after September 1st is being developed.

Surveillance

HIS based syndromic surveillance system

A Health Information Management System (HIMS) plan is developed and placed on hold since 2017, due to financial constraints. The plan could be adapted and include syndromic surveillance. The biggest challenge is sufficient funds to complete the project.

PCR testing

It is estimated that the costs of the PCR testing will be approximately 40,000 NafI monthly. This will come from the budget of the ministry of Public Health.

Community outreach

Testing

To ensure access to testing for all persons in the community active community outreach needs to be conducted to target all different groups in society. Additional staff is needed for the continuous outreach to the community. This work is now conducted by volunteers; this is not sustainable for the long-term when volunteers need to return to their place of work.

Communication

A multilingual, multimedia communication campaign needs to be developed to ensure the continued awareness and compliance of the entire public with the recommendation including social distancing and hygiene practices.