

Introduction DG Covid-19

- Since start of Covid-19 Crisis until mid July the National Crisis Structure in the lead in the Dutch effort to combat Covid-19;
- There was a need to find a more structural way to continue the political decision making process regarding the effort to contain the virus;
- July: Start of the Directorate-general Covid-19.
 - DG Covid-19 coordinates:
 - the decision-making process regarding the national measures
 - the national information campaigns;
 - But: the medical policy is with the Ministry of Health. Details later by Mr. Driece

General situation:

- The coronavirus situation in the Netherlands continues to be a significant cause for concern.
- So, basic rules for everyone:
 - If you have symptoms, get tested as soon as possible and stay at home.
 - Maintain a distance of 1.5 meters from other people.
 - Wash your hands frequently.
 - Don't shake hands with others.
 - Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
 - Avoid busy places. Leave if you notice it is becoming difficult to keep a distance of 1.5 meters.

Press conference of prime minister Rutte, August 18th:

- The number of infections and hospital admissions has increased.
- If we are not careful, we will soon lose all the ground we have gained.
- Private gatherings at people's homes are where the most infections are occurring.
- This includes family events, birthday parties, drinks with neighbours and social gatherings among friends
- This is why the government has announced a tightening up of measures.

Tightening up off measures:

- The most significant new measure is that the government strongly and urgently advises people to limit the number of guests they receive at home to a maximum of six (excluding children under 13).
- Parties, drinks and other events involving large groups of people should preferably be held in hospitality venues where there is more space and guests have an allocated seat, can register their contact details and must confirm they have no symptoms. Guests should have at least 1.5 metres between them and physical contact should be avoided.
- Of all the measures that have been introduced since the start of the pandemic, the advice to work from home wherever possible has proved one of the most effective. This advice was not time-limited and so the advice remains: work from home wherever possible

Relief: Quarantine period reduced

- If you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, you should self-quarantine.
- The quarantine period is reduced from 14 days to 10 days.