

LONG-TERM STRATEGY WITH CORONA, THE NETHERLANDS

On April 1st 2022, the Dutch government released its view on the long-term strategy for COVID-19. The government considers that in March 2022, most corona rules went away and The Netherlands is open again. The government would like to keep it that way. At the same time, the virus is not going away. Therefore a strategy is needed.

Key points of the new corona approach

Corona may flare up again in the future. In that case, the government wants to keep the Netherlands open as much as possible. Therefore, there is now a strategy. This strategy has 2 goals:

- People and businesses can continue their lives as well as possible, even if corona flares up again. Stores, businesses, theatres and museums, for example, are open as much as possible. And if restrictive rules do come into play, we know in advance where we stand;
- If corona breaks out, healthcare must remain accessible to everyone, both for people with corona and for people who need operations and other treatments.

Plan of action to keep the Netherlands open as much as possible. Main action points:

A. Government keeps an eye on the virus

The coronavirus is not gone. The government is keeping a close eye on the development of the virus. For example, by examining sewage for virus particles. And by cooperating with other countries.

B. Together we prevent the virus from spreading

Prevention from spreading

All inhabitants of the Netherlands can help prevent the virus from spreading:

- Follow the basic advice.
- Do a self-test if you have symptoms.
- Stay home after a positive test.

Then we can protect ourselves and vulnerable people. And society can remain open as much as possible.

Healthy society

If you are healthy, you are less likely to become very ill from corona. The government will help people to live healthy lives. Healthy living is about exercising more often and getting more exercise. But it's also about people's mental health. Working from home more often can also contribute to a healthy society.

Vaccinations and medicines

Perhaps there will be new rounds of vaccination. The government is making sure we are ready for that. There are also medicines that help prevent serious illness from corona. Or that make people with corona better. The government makes sure those medicines are available quickly.

C. Optimizing care

The government wants normal care to continue as much as possible if the corona virus resurfaces. For example, by expanding care capacity and making better use of it. And by making care professionals more broadly and flexibly employable.

D. Predictable decisions and possible steps

Predictable decisions

If the virus revives, (stricter) rules may need to be put in place again. This is how we can keep healthcare accessible. To ensure that people and businesses are affected as little as possible by (new) corona rules, various ministries are going to make agreements with businesses and institutions in the coming months about the rules if corona is revived. For example, with the hospitality industry and theaters. Then everyone will know what needs to be done.

Social Impact Team alongside Outbreak Management Team

The government is also thinking about setting up a Social Impact Team. If this team is set up, it will advise the government on the social impact of possible future rules. The Societal Impact Team will be in addition to the OMT (Outbreak Management Team).

Follow-up

In June 2022 the Policy will be send to the Dutch Parliament.

Read more [here](#) (in Dutch only).