Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Actions taken by Netherlands to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as of February 18, 2021.

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Our Organization

The UN Compliance Research Group is a global organization which specializes in monitoring the work of the United Nations (UN). Through our professional team of academics, scholars, researchers and students we aim to serve as the world's leading independent source of information on members' compliance to UN resolutions and guidelines. Our scope of activity is broad, including assessing the compliance of member states to UN resolutions and plan of actions, adherence to judgments of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and commitments made at UN pledging conferences. We’re proud to present the international community and global governments with our native research findings on states’ annual compliance with the commitments of the UN and its affiliated agencies. Our goal as world citizens is to foster a global change towards a sustainable future; one which starts with ensuring that the words of delegates are transformed into action and that UN initiatives don’t remain ink on paper. Hence, we offer policy analysis and provide advice on fostering accountability and transparency in UN governance as well as tracing the connection between the UN policy-makers and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Yet, we aim to adopt a neutral path and do not engage in advocacy for issues or actions taken by the UN or member states. Acting as such, for the sake of transparency. The UN Compliance Research Group dedicates all its effort to inform the public and scholars about the issues and agenda of the UN and its affiliated agencies.
Purpose

The International Health Regulations (2005) are legally binding on 196 States Parties, including all WHO Member States. The IHR aims to keep the world informed about public health risks, through committing all signatories to cooperate together in combating any future “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans.” Under IHR, countries agreed to strengthen their public health capacities and notify the WHO of any such illness in their populations. The WHO would be the centralized body for all countries facing a health threat, with the power to declare a “public health emergency of international concern,” issue recommendations, and work with countries to tackle a crisis.

Although, with the sudden and rapid spread of COVID-19 in the world, many countries varied in implementing the WHO guidelines and health recommendations. While some countries followed the WHO guidelines, others imposed travel restrictions against the WHO’s recommendations. Some refused to share their data with the organization. Others banned the export of medical equipment, even in the face of global shortages. The UN Compliance Research group will focus during the current cycle on analyzing the compliance of the WHO member states to the organization’s guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
## WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

### School/educational institutions:
- Decision makers should consider the following if they decide to open or close schools: Current understanding about COVID-19 transmission and severity in children, Local situation and epidemiology of COVID-19 where the school(s) are located, School setting and ability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- Recommended to promote: Hygiene and environmental cleaning to limit exposure, Screening and management of sick students, teachers and other school staff, Communication with parents and students, Physical distancing at school, Tele-schooling and distance learning.

### Workplaces and institutions:
- Partial closure of workplaces as of early March.
- Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing, Hand hygiene stations.
- Respiratory hygiene: Promote respiratory etiquette, Develop a policy on wearing a mask or a face covering.
- Physical distancing: less people, implementing shifts.
- Reduce and manage work-related travels.
- Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection.
- Risk communication, training, and education: Provide posters, videos, and electronic message boards.
- Management of people with COVID-19 or their contacts: introduce thermal screening.
- Take more measures when it comes to jobs at medium and high risk.

### Public events:
- Restriction to host gatherings or events that exceed a large number of individuals. ex) sport games, religious functions, restaurants, etc.
- Planning phase: Liaison with all relevant stakeholders, Development of a preparedness and response plan, Assessment of capacities and resources.
- Operational phase: Modifications of the event, Risk communication, Surveillance of participants, aimed at detecting and managing individuals developing symptoms during the event.
- Post-event phase: Liaison between event organizers and health authorities.

### Public Transport:
- Reduce crowding, limit access to, or close public spaces, restaurants, sporting events, 24 sports clubs, entertainment venues, places of worship, 25 or venues with limited ventilation.
- Encourage physical distancing in public places and transportation.
- Reduce mixing between individuals and households.
- Communicate to recommend wearing masks in public.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Information Campaign:</th>
<th>Domestic/International Travel:</th>
<th>Testing Framework:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Communicate risk clearly with information on how to protect oneself and others.</td>
<td>● Reduction in Travel to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</td>
<td>● Set up testing centers in large venues or in check points.</td>
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<td>● Simplify messages, encourage sharing of information.</td>
<td>● International travel should not occur unless in an emergency.</td>
<td>● Require travellers to self-quarantine after being tested.</td>
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<td>● Engage with communities in decision-making and to strengthen engagement for public health measures.</td>
<td>● Recommended to adhere to safety measures while travelling.</td>
<td>● Molecular (e.g. PCR) testing of respiratory tract samples is the recommended method for the identification and laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 cases.</td>
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<td>● Identify local networks and engage communities, businesses, religious leaders, and local influencers.</td>
<td>● Establish effective contingency plans and arrangements for responding a Public Health Emergency.</td>
<td>● To inform WHO policy on the use of immunodiagnostic rapid tests for COVID-19.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Contact Tracing:</th>
<th>Lockdown/Curfew:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Set up relational databases linking lists of contacts to line lists of cases.</td>
<td>● Implementation of curfew hours.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Allow for tailored case investigation forms, contact listing forms, and contact follow-up forms to be set up.</td>
<td>● Require citizens to stay in home unless of an emergency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Used for self-checking and self-reporting of signs and symptoms by people through mobile phone apps or SMS technology.</td>
<td>● Monitor locations to abide by the curfew hours.</td>
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Methodology and Scoring System

- This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (the International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multi-year project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions. The methodology uses a scale from −1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, −1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of −1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where −1 equals 0 percent and +1 equals 100 percent.
## Scoring Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>State does not comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), nor does it comply with any of the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>State complies with the IHR and partially complies with the WHO recommendations on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to at least two commitments of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>State fully complies with the IHR and the WHO guidelines on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to all nine areas of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Netherlands complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) and fully complied with the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions in all nine commitment features. Thus, Netherlands receives a compliance score of +1.
## Netherlands

### Domestic/International Travel

- **On 6 February 2020**, the government of the Netherlands announced a suspension of flights going to China until 29 March.
- **On 20 February 2020**, the Netherlands announced the suspension of flights to China will now end earlier on 28 March. Also, they imposed a flight suspension to Italy and other European countries.
- **On 28 March 2020**, the government announced the resumption of flights to China operating at a limited capacity.
- **On 5 May 2020**, the government announced the resumption of flights to Italy. Face masks are also now required.
- **On 21 May 2020**, the government announced the resumption of flights to several European countries that have low COVID-19 cases.
- **On 23 September 2020**, the government encouraged to limit domestic travel and those who do not wear face masks are not permitted.
- **As of 8 December 2020**, the government announced that only EEA countries, Switzerland, the UK and other countries where there is a low number of COVID-19 cases from Europe, Africa, and South America are allowed to enter to the Netherlands. Upon arrival, individuals must isolate for up-to 10 days.
- **On 20 December 2020**, authorities announced a ban to passenger flights going and coming from the UK.
- **On 23 December 2020**, the Netherlands have lifted the ban on passenger flights going to and coming to the UK.
- **On 24 December 2020**, the government announced another ban on flights to and from the UK.
- **On 27 December 2020**, passengers travelling to the Netherlands require to show a negative result PCR test in order to enter. This includes travelers arriving by international flights, trains or coach.
- **On 15 January 2021**, the UK, Ireland, and South Africa are required to take a rapid COVID-19 antigen test due to the outbreak of the new strand of COVID-19. The same measures will be applied to the rest of the countries allowed to travel to the Netherlands starting on 19 January.
- **As of 19 January 2021**, the government announced the requirement of the rapid COVID-19 antigen test to be taken and the result coming out as negative before arriving to the Netherlands.
- **On 2 February 2021**, the government announced the requirement of taking the rapid COVID-19 antigen test 4 hours before boarding a plane to the Netherlands.
# Netherlands

## Public Info Campaign
- **On 20 March 2020**, the government set up a specific section in the governmental website that provides new and up to date information regarding COVID-19.
- **On 8 December 2020**, the Dutch government launched the public awareness campaign ‘Aandacht voor elkaar’ to provide the latest updates and guidelines on the pandemic.
- **As of 6 February 2021**, the government announced to the public through TV, radio stations and social media to the public to remain at homes during the curfew and to only leave home of there is an emergency.

## Educational Institutions
- **On 16 March 2020**, the government announced the closure to all nurseries, schools, universities and educational institutions until further notice.
- **On 21 April 2020**, schools and educational facilities are announced to reopen on 11 May.
- **As of 11 May 2020**, schools and universities have reopened for in-person classes.
- **On 16 December 2020**, the government announced a closure to in-person classes in nurseries, schools and universities. Students in schools and universities were required to continue classes online until further notice.
- **On 8 February 2021**, nurseries and primary schools nationwide reopened for in-person instruction.

## Public Transportation
- **On 9 April 2020**, the government announced that public transport will operate at limited capacity nationwide and with the use of face masks being mandatory until further notice. Not wearing a face mask results in an on-spot fine of 95 Euros.
- **On 29 June 2020**, all trains including rush hour and night train resumed normal timetable operations.
- **On 14 October 2020**, the government announced that all forms of public transportation will run as normal but with the continued use of face masks.

## Workplace and Institutions
- **On 13 March 2020**, workplaces announced the encouragement to have workers work from home. Strict social distancing measures were required in all workplaces nationwide.
- **As of 2 February 2021**, the government continued the policy to let workers work from home during the nationwide curfew/lockdown.

*No official closure of workplaces in the Netherlands by the Dutch government.*
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Public Events

- **On 13 March 2020**, the government announced a ban to all forms of social gatherings that are over 100 people. Museums, concert venues, theatres and sport events will be banned until 31 March.
- **On 16 March 2020**, the government announced the ban to nightclubs, restaurants, and marijuana coffee shops.
- **On 30 March 2020**, the government announced an extension to the ban on social gatherings until 1 June. Museums, theaters and gyms will be ready to open on 28 April.
- **On 21 April 2020**, the government announced a major ban on social gatherings including professional sports, and music festivals that will last until 1 September.
- **On 28 April 2020**, the government announced the opening of gyms, museums and theaters but operating at a limited capacity.
- **On 31 July 2020**, the government announced the required use of face masks in outdoor spaces.
- **As of 28 September 2020**, restaurants are required to close at 10pm. Social gatherings are again open to the people. However, only 40 people max.
- **As of 14 October 2020**, the government announced that indoor areas like restaurants will be operating with a maximum of 30 people.
- **On 3 November 2020**, the government announced that certain entertainment establishments and facilities will remain closed again due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. However, gyms and sport facilities remain open with a certain number of people being allowed to attend.
- **As of 12 January 2021**, all indoor and outdoor gatherings are now limited to 2 people. 1.5 meters distance is mandatory between adults when doing outdoor sports.

Testing Framework

- **As of 12 March 2020**, the government announced the first rounds of testing. Only 1,000 tests were being able to conduct in a day.
- **As of 25 March 2020**, the government announced that 2,500 tests were being able to conduct.
- **As of 30 March 2020**, the government announced that testing was upto 4,000 people a day.
- **On 26 April 2020**, the government has been able to conduct 4,280 tests a day.
- **On 6 May 2020**, the government announced that testing will be conducted to anyone with COVID-19 symptoms instead of only health workers starting on 1 June. During this period, the testing capacity was increased to 30,000 tests a day.
- **On 1 June 2020**, the government created a telephone line to state when and where to take the tests.
- **By 11 June 2020**, the government was able to conduct 50,000 tests per day.
- **As of 18 February 2021**, the Netherlands has conducted a total of 406,227 tests per 1 million people.

Contact Tracing

- **As of 20 March 2020**, the government has announced the use of a COVID-19 tracking app that it used to detect individuals with COVID-19 nearby.
- **On 8 June 2020**, the government released a document to the public explaining how contact tracing works and what ways individuals can contribute to improving contact tracing and avoiding COVID-19.
- **On 10 September 2020**, the government announced the launch of the contact tracing app as a requirement for individuals to have to avoid any traces of COVID-19.
- **On 14 October 2020**, the government of the Netherlands announced the requirement to provide details to restaurants in order to help them with contact tracing.

Vaccine

- **On 1 January 2021**, the Dutch government announced that vaccination will be carried out through 30 centres nationwide. A vaccination drive will be launched for to vaccinate residents of nursing and care homes in their care homes. the Netherlands announced the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines.
- **On 6 January 2021**, the government announced the start of the national vaccination process. Nursing home resident and workers, hospital staff, and people over the age of 80 living at home are said to take the vaccination first. The rest of the population over 18 will get the vaccine on later stages.
- **On 12 February 2021**, the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine was approved and used for individuals under the age 65.
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Netherlands

Sources

❖ “630,000 People Have Now Been Vaccinated, as Roll-out Continues.” DutchNews.nl, February 18, 2021. [https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2021/02/630000-people-have-now-been-vaccinated-as-roll-out-continues/].


❖ “Netherlands - Observatory on Border Crossings Status Due to COVID-19.” UNECE Wiki, February 14, 2021. [https://wiki.unece.org/display/CTRBSBC/Netherlands].