



**Fédération Européenne
des Médecins Salariés**
European Federation
of Salaried Doctors

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To: FEMS

Regarding: Interim Report FEMS – The Netherlands
Date: September 1, 2021
From: Mrs. Hanneke Verheijde / mr. Christiaan Keijzer

Since our last meeting COVID-19 is still an actual topic in the Netherlands, as it is in most countries around the world. The situation in the hospitals is better than the last time we spoke, but still worrisome. In comparison to this day last year, we have approximately 200 more patients in Intensive Care. The number of positive tests is slowly increasing and the R-rate is also again above 1. The question is what will happen when the schools reopen and people come back from their holidays.

Last week the prime minister gave a press conference to announce that higher education will fully reopen after the summer. Before summer all shops, bars, pubs and sporting schools already fully reopened. Also mouth masks are only obliged in public transportation. Certain hospitals and other public places decide themselves to keep wearing mouth masks.

Today on the 25th of August we have 2863 new positive cases since yesterday.

The numbers

Total number of cases as of **25th of August** (confirmed by RT-PCR test): 1.92 million in total.
Number of hospitalised cases on **25th of August**: 674 cases
Number of cases in Intensive Care Units on **25th of August**: 228 cases
Number of deaths due to COVID-19 as of **25th of August**: 17.794 in total
Number of people vaccinated as of **25th of August**: 18.963.074 vaccines reported, 22.695.140 estimated

Vaccination

Vaccination started in the hospitals in January. During July they started vaccination of young people, above 12 and under 18. There is now debate if a third dose is necessary.

Collective labor agreement Academic Hospitals

As we reported last time, there still is no new collective labor agreement for the academic hospitals. The unions send out a last olive branch to the employer organization NFU this Monday. If the NFU does not reply positively, action will start in September. The unions shall not start with small local actions, but are organizing 'Sunday-shifts' during week days. This is one of the most severe types of actions in the Netherlands.



Also in other collective labor negotiations salary is a big topic. Smaller topics are for example facilities for working from home. Also negotiations for the general hospitals are going difficult. The negotiations for a new collective labor agreement in the mental care will start later this year.

Healthy and safe working conditions

The LAD started with several pilots this year in different types of healthcare organizations, such as pharmacy and municipal health services. Goal of the pilot is to better the working conditions of doctors, with healthy rosters, production in accordance with staffing, better positioning of doctors towards the hospital board and more fun at work. We organize projects and lead the projects with the doctors locally to better their working conditions. The first results seem positive. All pilots are scientifically monitored with the goal to have evidence based interventions for doctors well being in the future. We hope to expand the number of pilots next year.

Career monitor for medical specialists and junior doctors

Together with the Dutch federation of medical specialist (FMS) and the Dutch organization for junior doctors (DJS) we are developing a career monitor. We start monitoring all new residents when they start their residency up to medical specialists at the day of retiring. Our goal is to get better insights in individual career paths and how they develop over time, and also hope to get enough inside information in the whole population of medical specialists (to be) in the Netherlands to improve our policy making. We see for instance many unemployed orthopedic surgeons: but why is that? With this monitor we can see bi-annually where they work, how satisfied they are with their work, what their ambitions are for the future and more. We hope to have the first results in January 2022.