

# Memo

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Date  
19 August 2021  
Subject  
Protocol for dealing with infections

## GGD contact tracing takes precedence

Employees and students with (mild) COVID-like symptoms or those who have been in contact with someone who tested positive can get tested by the GGD (Municipal Health Service)<sup>1</sup>. In the event of a positive result, the GGD will carry out a source and contact investigation. This will include all contacts from two days before the start of the symptoms until the moment of quarantine. The employee or student must follow the instructions of the GGD. For the UvA, this means that employees and students can rely on being informed by or on behalf of the GGD if they have been at risk of infection at the UvA.

It has been agreed with the GGD that the UvA will be informed in the event of a positive result from a student or employee who also attended or gave lectures on location during the contagious period (without a 1.5-metre distance). Karin Walstra is the relevant contact person for this at the UvA. The GGD will provide an action plan for those at risk of infection and will determine which measures need to be taken. If several infections are reported in a single group/lecture, it may be decided to cancel on-campus teaching for a specific period of time. This procedure is separate from the regular source and contact investigation carried out by the GGD. This measure is to prevent parts of the UvA from being closed by order of the GGD based on the current source measures.

Communication with students and lecturers will always take place via the degree programme. The content of the message should be a factual account of the state of affairs with the GGD's action plan and should be sent to the entire group at risk, including the infected person himself/herself. The content of the message must never make it possible to identify the infected individual. In addition, no personal data will be exchanged between the GGD and the UvA. The aim of the message is to prevent rumours circulating and to proactively provide a contact point to which employees or students can turn with questions or concerns. In addition, employees and students may be asked to be alert to symptoms and to undergo (extra) testing.

Should you report an infection yourself or not?

It is not compulsory to report a coronavirus infection. In the interests of a safe work and study environment at the UvA, however, we do appreciate people reporting this to their manager or degree programme (via the study adviser, for example). An important point to note is that, in

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<sup>1</sup> These include the following symptoms: cold symptoms (blocked nose, runny nose, sneezing, sore throat), increased temperature (above 38°C) or fever, coughing or shortness of breath, sudden loss of smell or taste (without a blocked nose).

connection with the privacy of our students and employees, we do not register any personal data of infected employees/students.

The manager or degree programme will then report this, with the consent of the employee or student, to Karin Walstra (policy officer for safety and security) in an anonymised form. The sole purpose of this notification is to see whether a group email should be sent with the GGD's action plan and/or whether adjustments should be made to the work or study environment.

Finally, a manager or lecturer may...

- not explicitly ask an employee or student about coronavirus infection;
- not record anything (in writing) if an employee or student voluntarily reports a coronavirus infection;
- not share information about coronavirus infections with others, such as colleagues or fellow students.

## Appendix:

What should you do if you have (mild) symptoms that tie in with coronavirus?

Do you have mild symptoms, such as a blocked nose, runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, mild cough or a temperature of up to 38 degrees Celsius? And/or do you have a sudden loss of smell or taste? Get tested and stay at home until the result is known. Do not go shopping or receive visitors. Ask other people to do the shopping or have it delivered, and get someone else to walk the dog. Any household members who do not have any symptoms will have to adhere to the basic rules that apply to everyone in the Netherlands.

Call the doctor if you get sicker or if you need medical help, for example if you have a high fever or are having trouble breathing. Do not go to your GP or the hospital; instead, call your general practitioner or out-of-hours GP service.

What should you do in the event of a positive coronavirus test result?

If the result is positive, you will be asked to go into home isolation<sup>2</sup>. The GGD will give you precise instructions about this and carry out a source and contact investigation. If necessary, employees can make arrangements with their manager about their work. They should report in sick if they cannot do any work. Students can consult with their degree programme (e.g. via the study adviser or Education Desk) about alternative ways to continue their studies.

The investigation by the GGD includes contacts that may have been infected, among other people. These can be fellow students, colleagues or external contacts. The GGD can get in touch with these people for source and contact investigations. The GGD can also impose a compulsory measure of home isolation for contacts.

It is not compulsory to report to the UvA that you are infected with coronavirus. In the interests of a safe work and study environment at the UvA, however, we do appreciate people reporting this to their manager or degree programme (via the study adviser, for example).

What should you do in the event of compulsory quarantine?

In principle, employees or students who are required by the GGD to remain in compulsory quarantine for 10 days only need to report their absence to their manager or lecturer if they were expected at the institution during the quarantine period.

If necessary, employees can make arrangements with their manager about working from home.

If students are confronted with problems and/or a possible study delay as a result of a coronavirus infection, either personally or of someone in their immediate environment, they can discuss this with their degree programme.

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<sup>2</sup> Distinction between (home) isolation and quarantine: isolation is a measure to be taken in the event of infection; quarantine is a precautionary measure for people who have been in contact with an infected person, but are not (yet) sick.