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Subject Please comply with the coronavirus measures

Dear student,

In the last days, we saw an increasing number of COVID-19 infections in the Netherlands. In Groningen we see this increase as well, in particular amongst students/young people. This Monday is the start of the introduction week (*KEI-week*) and soon the new academic year will start. This means that a lot of new (international) students will arrive in Groningen which delights me. However, it is highly important to comply with the coronavirus measures to avoid the virus from spreading any further.

Comply with the measures: for yourself and for others

The coronavirus (COVID-19) is a serious virus. You can get very ill as well and experience serious health issues over a long period. We see many social gatherings of young people/students this summer holiday and during these social gatherings, we see it is hard to comply with the measures. This can result in a rapid spread of the virus and it makes it hard for the GGD Groningen (a healthcare organisation) to do their job in tracing contacts. Right now, it is still possible to find out where you may have contracted the infection (the source) and we would like to keep it that way.

Therefore, we repeat the coronavirus measures once more:

- Avoid busy places – do not stick closely together in cafes and bars
- Maintain your distance – stay 1.5 meters (2 arm lengths) apart from others, both inside and outside
- If you have symptoms, stay at home and get tested (call: 0800-1202) – also if you doubt whether this is necessary!
- If the test is positive, please comply with the rules for quarantine (see: www.rivm.nl)
- Participate in the contact tracing which is conducted by GGD Groningen

Introduction weeks in Groningen

On the 6th of August the Dutch government has announced new measures, specifically focused on the hospitality industry and the introduction activities for students. These measures can be found at <https://www.government.nl>. For the introduction activities, these new measures mean they can only take place under strict conditions: no alcohol, in small groups and not after 22:00.

Besides these measures, the GGD Groningen advises to not celebrate house parties as in practice, keeping a 1.5-meter distance to one another at such house parties can often not be guaranteed. Moreover, this can cause confusion and irritations by neighbours or bystanders. Please realise this and keep this in mind.

Better Safe Than Sorry

This letter is not the only way we want to highlight the coronavirus measures to you. With the slogan: 'Better Safe Than Sorry' you can find more information about the measures on www.safeingroningen.nl. It is important to comply with the coronavirus measures to minimise the spread of the virus. Only then we are able to enjoy our social freedom in Groningen. Take this message seriously and speak-up to others if they do not comply with the measures. Only together we can control this virus.

Especially now that we see an increase in the number of infections, we cannot slacken our efforts. Take care. I count on you!

Yours sincerely,

Koen Schuiling,
Chairman Veiligheidsregio Groningen