

# Impact of COVID-19 vaccinations in Dutch nursing homes

## Back to normal?

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ageing and south  
long-term care limburg



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I.v.m. verscherpte maatregelen rondom  
het Corona Virus, is het niet toegestaan  
bezoek te ontvangen.

Ook geen familie en partners!

Dit is een landelijke maatregel i.o. van  
het RIVM

Alle verpleeghuizen waren bezoekers in strijd  
tegen coronavirus

## Nursing homes closed nationally on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

*In the southern part of the Netherlands,  
organizations closed from March 10<sup>th</sup>*



▲ Verpleeghuis dicht corona © PZC

# Ban for visitors

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- Highly restrictive measure
  - No family/friends/volunteers allowed
  - Only health services if highly necessary
- Creative alternatives
  - E.g. window visiting, separate container
- BUT serious challenge to residents' autonomy
- Primary data lacking





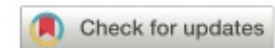
JAMDA

journal homepage: [www.jamda.com](http://www.jamda.com)



Original Study

# Allowing Visitors Back in the Nursing Home During the COVID-19 Crisis: A Dutch National Study Into First Experiences and Impact on Well-Being



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RESEARCH

Open Access



# From wave to wave: a Dutch national study on the long-term impact of COVID-19 on well-being and family visitation in nursing homes

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# New survey

## March/April 2021

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Aim: Assess the impact of vaccinations on  
daily life and family visitation in Dutch  
nursing homes



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# Background

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- Residents and staff of nursing homes were among the first to be vaccinated against COVID-19
- Start vaccination nursing home residents: January 18, 2021

# Results (1)

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- 59 / 76 nursing homes responded (78%)
- Vaccination status residents (March/April 2021):
  - On average, 77% of residents within a nursing home were fully vaccinated
  - Often, over 80% of residents were fully vaccinated
  - In 20% of nursing homes: less than 60% of residents fully vaccinated
- Reasons for low vaccination rates among residents:
  - Most mentioned: still waiting for the second dose
  - Minority: fragile health status, no consent from family members, fear of side effects, low confidence in vaccination

# Results (2)

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- Vaccination status of staff: due to privacy regulations, not known exactly
- 2/3 of respondents indicated that they can give a reliable estimation:
  - On average, they estimated that 65% of staff in their nursing home was vaccinated (great variation between homes)
- Reasons for low vaccination rates:
  - Pregnancy or wish to become pregnant or breastfeeding
  - Fear of side effects
  - Fear of long-term effects of vaccination



# Results (3)

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- 70% of nursing homes: protective measures less restrictive after vaccinations
  - Still: no hugs between residents and family allowed, family is not allowed to stay for dinner, family is only welcome during ‘visiting hours’, etc.
- Normalization of activities:
  - Resident-resident interaction
  - Less volunteers than before the pandemic

# Conclusion

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- Even after vaccination, ‘normality’ had not been reached
  - No plans on how to ‘normalize’
- Family visits still differ (compared to pre-pandemic)
- Is family still seen as a ‘risk factor’?
- Tailor-made solutions necessary: How to reach ‘normality’?



## Partners:

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