



The Dutch National Action Plan for the strengthening of the zoonotic disease policy

"To reduce the risk on emergence and spreading of zoonotic diseases and to be prepared for a possible outbreak."



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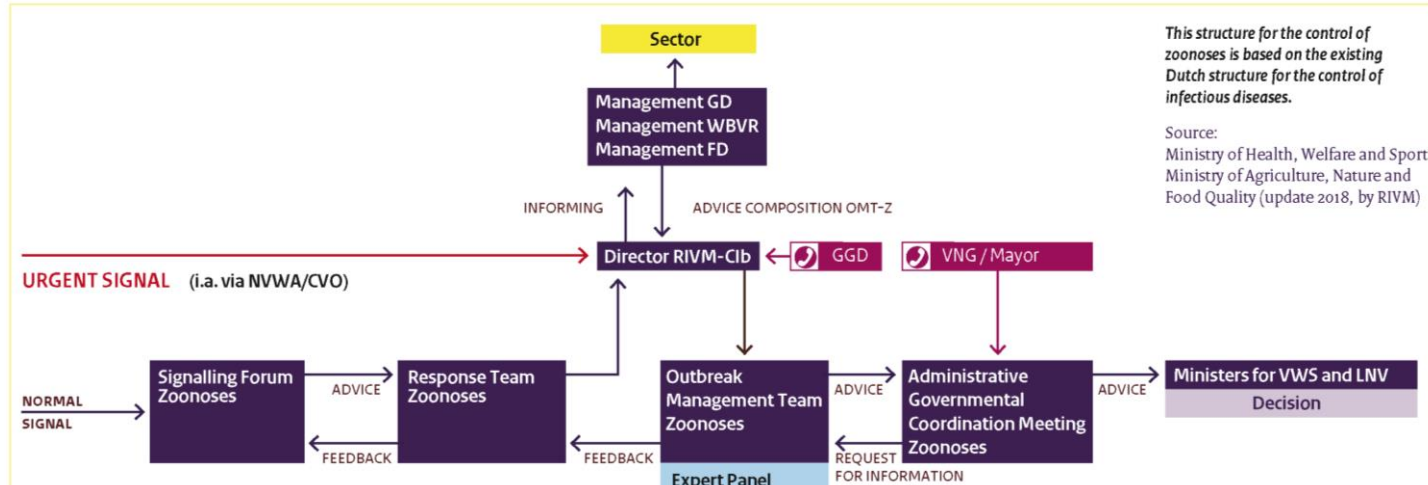
The Dutch experience *concerning zoonotic diseases*

- Tularemia
- *Brucella canis*
- Tick-borne encefalitis
- Lyme's disease
- Avian influenza

- Q-fever (2007-2010)
- SARS-CoV-2 in mink (2020)

Zoonoses Structure in the Netherlands

from signaling to decision-making



CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
FD	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University
GD	GD Animal Health, Deventer
GGD	Municipal Public Health Service
LNV	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
RIVM-Cib	RIVM Centre for Infectious Disease Control
VNG	Association of Dutch Municipalities
VWS	Ministry of Health Welfare and Sport
WBVR	Wageningen Bioveterinary Research

For more detailed information:

Van der Giessen et al. (2022). Signalling and responding to zoonotic threats using a One Health approach: a decade of the Zoonoses Structure in the Netherlands, 2011 to 2021. Euro Surveill. 2022;27(31):pii=2200039. <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2022.27.31.2200039>

Reason

- COVID-19 has led to national & global disruptions
- The Dutch Cabinet is committed to preventing such situations in the future
- One Health approach
- Input for National Action plan:
 - Existing policy
 - Report 'Zoonoses in sight' (June 2021) from expert group Zoonoses
 - Evaluation of the outbreak management of SARS-CoV-2 in mink
 - Stakeholder consultation



Developments increasing risk on zoonotic diseases

Climate change



Changes in land usage

Society



Animal handling

Pandemic Preparedness

Pillars

The Pandemic Preparedness framework consists of three main pillars:



Strengthen public health and infectious disease control



Healthcare: prepared, flexible and scalable



Strengthen security of supply and access to medical products

Pandemic Preparedness framework

Within this framework we consider four crosscutting themes:



Governance



International strategy and collaboration



Knowledge, innovation and development



ICT and data sharing

Objectives



Prevent pandemics



Limit morbidity and mortality



Limit economic impact



Limit social impact



Government of the Netherlands

National Action Plan for the Strengthening of the Zoonotic Disease Policy

6 July 2022



More focus on zoonotic diseases

National Action Plan for the Strengthening of Zoonotic Disease Policy
2022-2026


Risks are increasing

-  Changes in land use
-  The way animals are handled
-  Climate change
-  More frequent and further travel


1 Prevention

 Preventing the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases

2 Detection


 Detecting pathogens at an early stage

3 Response

 Responding quickly to outbreaks

 International collaboration

 Research



Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

Known examples

- COVID-19
- ebola
- Lyme disease



National Action Plan for the Strengthening of Zoonotic Disease Policy

Key action points 2022-2026

Prevention

- Combat deforestation, loss of biodiversity and climate change
- Set up a knowledge platform for vector-borne infectious diseases for research, advice and more intensive monitoring
- Guidelines for provinces and municipalities about zoonotic risks, when planning rural and urban environments
- Include risks of zoonotic and other pathogens in the Dutch National Programme on rural areas (nitrogen)
- Biosecurity plans for livestock farms
- Vaccinate poultry against bird flu as soon as possible, in a responsible way
- Intensify supervision of animal fairs in the Netherlands
- Target group-oriented communication to increase the knowledge of zoonotic diseases among the general public and professionals

Detection

- Analyse whether all signals of zoonotic diseases are detected at an early stage, for example in the case of insect farming
- Expand monitoring of zoonotic diseases in humans
- Improve animal-human data exchange, in order to detect sources.

Response

- Improve consistency between contingency plans for zoonotic outbreaks
- Contingency plan for outbreaks involving companion animals
- Guidelines on the procedures to follow on finding sick and dead wild birds and other animals
- Crisis simulations with all parties involved
- Draw up of a national crisis plan for infectious diseases, including zoonotic diseases

International collaboration

- Share information on the Dutch Zoonoses Structure and encourage other countries to also develop an action plan
- International awareness of the risks associated with wet markets, bushmeat and the trade in wild animals
- Increase monitoring and data exchange between countries

Research

- Knowledge agenda on the spread of zoonotic diseases and improved detection methods
- Co-financing of long-term research programmes on zoonotic risks
- International partnerships



Monitoring and surveillance

- Targeted, systematic monitoring is carried out in a number of vectors, wild and domesticated animal species
- Human surveillance:
 - Notifiable infectious diseases
 - Syndrome surveillance data from GP (NIVEL) and hospitals (Dutch Hospital Data)
 - Wastewater surveillance
- Relevant warning signs are discussed within the Zoonoses Structure
- The design and implementation of **surveillance programs** for listed diseases including emerging diseases and zoonotic diseases. (Article 26 in the animal health regulation)

One Health data exchange

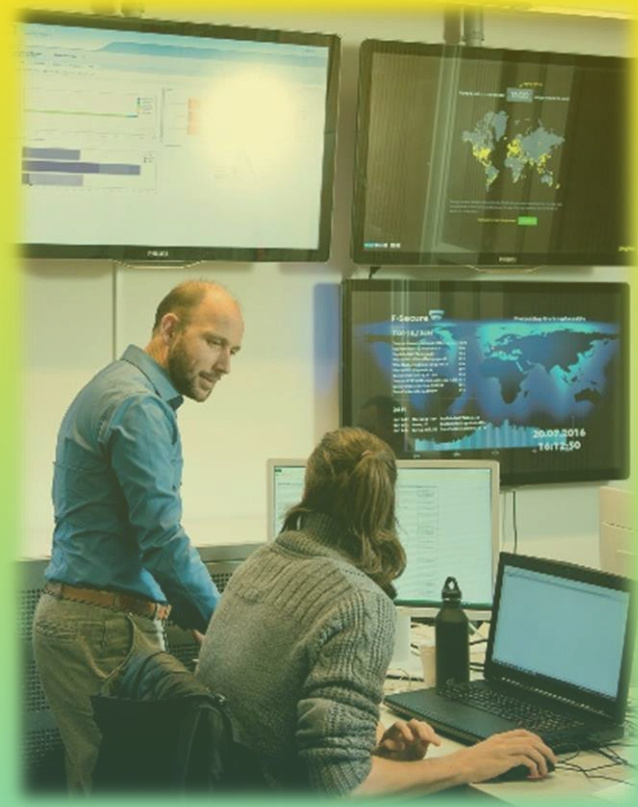
- Challenge: Exchange of (privacy-sensitive) information between veterinary and humane research laboratories

Action plan (2022 – 2026):

- Analysis of current possibilities
- Pilot monitoring and data-exchange swine-influenza viruses (RIVM)
- Guideline data exchange
- Platform One Health data exchange

International:

- Strengthening surveillance in (wild) animals and environment (EFSA & ECDC)
- EU joint action (with Dutch RIVM, WBVR)



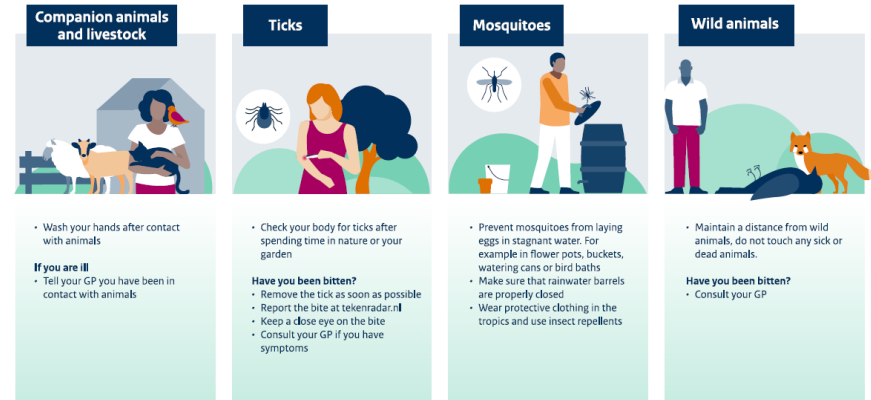
Zoonotic Literacy

Public knowledge on zoonotic diseases

- By analogy with health literacy, 'zoonotic literacy' is introduced by the expert group
- In common: public information
- General practitioners and veterinarians: Cooperation and collaboration in preventing & tackling zoonotic diseases
- General practitioner: pay attention to contact with animals and inform patients about possible risks

How can you prevent zoonotic diseases?

Zoonotic diseases: diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans



A large graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a stylized orange eye with concentric circles for the iris and pupil, and a white globe with orange continents, partially overlapping the eye. The background of the left half is a gradient from orange to yellow.

Key messages

- Integral One Health approach
- International cooperation
- We hope that Belgium will also commit to strengthening their pandemic preparedness and zoonotic disease policy

**Please feel free to ask
questions**



<https://www.government.nl/documents/reports/2022/07/06/national-action-plan-for-the-strengthening-of-the-zoonotic-disease-policy>