

COVID-19 in people with intellectual disabilities

In the Netherlands, many people have expressed concerns about the coronavirus and its impact on people with intellectual disabilities. To gain more insight into this situation, on 24 March the Academic Collaborative 'Sterker op eigen benen' of Radboud university medical center made an on-line registration system available. The registration system was commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. The preliminary findings of the registration system are presented in this fact sheet.

The most common complaints with a COVID-19 infection are: fever (71%), cough (70%), fatigue (63%), shortness of breath (46%), nose cold/sneezing (38%) and gastrointestinal complaints (36%).

Figures



REGISTRATION

- 69 organizations have joined the registration system;
- 2.115 patients with intellectual disabilities with suspected COVID-19 infection have been registered (of which 56% are men and 44% women). That are 307 more patients since the previous fact sheet of 10 July;
- 119 registered patients have died, and a COVID-19 infection has been confirmed in 62 of those cases by means of testing;
- The mortality rate in people with a confirmed COVID-19 infection is 14%.



TESTING

- 1.609 of the registered patients have been tested. That are 293 more patients since the previous fact sheet;
- In total, 28% of patients tested positive;
- 87% of patients with confirmed COVID-19 infections live in a group home and 13% in their own apartment;
- 62% of confirmed COVID-19 infections occur in the 40 to 69 age group and 16% in the 70+ age group.

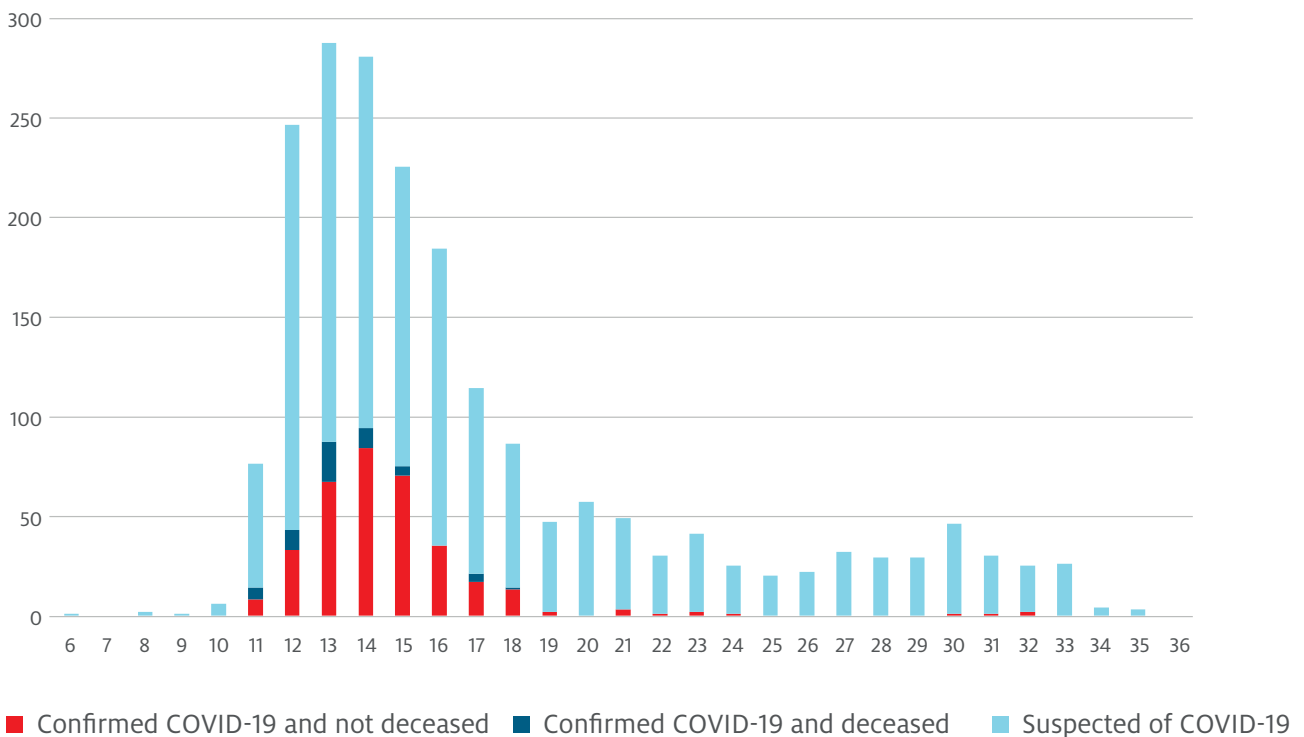


HIGHLIGHTS

In the general population there is a trend with an increase in COVID-19 infections (Source: RIVM, 08/09/2020). However, we do not see this trend in people with intellectual disabilities. Relatively few COVID-19 infections have been reported since 6 July 2020. We would like to keep it that way. That is why it is important that more attention is paid to the testing policy of the healthcare workers.

Figures continued

Figure 1. Number of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection per week



In **figure 1** the weekly number of people with an intellectual disability with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection is displayed. The patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection are divided into deceased and not deceased. All registered patients in the database till week 36 are included.

NB. Healthcare organizations have the possibility to register clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection retrospectively.