

Date 17 March 2020
Subject Coronavirus measures, Security Region Amsterdam-Amstelland

Dear Amsterdammers,

The government is taking additional measures against the coronavirus. In this letter, I would like to inform you about the consequences for the Amsterdam-Amstelland region. The coronavirus is no longer just a medical problem. The measures are having a major impact on our public life.

As you know, children cannot attend school or childcare for the time being. This will significantly change daily life for many parents and children in the coming period. Daycare is only possible if parents have a 'critical profession' (e.g. healthcare staff or those in the police force). Schools and nurseries are doing their utmost to provide childcare as far as possible, but it may take some time before everything is up and running. If parents have any questions, it is best to contact the school or nursery directly. Many schools are organising distance learning for children at home, firstly for group 8 at primary schools as well as final exam students at secondary schools and MBO.

In addition, the government has introduced a number of additional measures. These are included in an emergency decree that applies to the entire Security Region Amsterdam-Amstelland, i.e. the municipalities of Amsterdam, Amstelveen, Aalsmeer, Diemen, Ouder-Amstel and Uithoorn.

- Gatherings of more than 100 people are banned. This also applies to public locations such as museums, concert halls, theatres, sports clubs and sports competitions. This ban does not apply to public transport, shops such as supermarkets and department stores, government buildings or healthcare institutions.
- All restaurants and cafes are closed, and the public is not allowed to gather there. Kitchens of restaurants and cafés may remain open for collection and delivery only. But avoid busy times, make sure you don't stand close to other people and take your food and drink away with you.
- In places that have a dual function (such as bookshops with cafes), no food or drink may be served.
- Hotels are only allowed to serve food to overnight guests.
- Coffee shops may only open for take-away.
- Sports clubs and gyms (sporting arenas and sports facilities), swimming pools, sports halls and playing fields and saunas must remain closed.



- Businesses providing an opportunity to engage in paid-for sexual activities with or for a third party, or where commercial displays of an erotic/pornographic nature are offered, must remain closed.
- You can go outside, do some shopping or walk the dog, but where possible keep a distance of 1.5 metres, or two arm's lengths, from each other.

The municipality will enforce the rules if they are broken, with the help of the police if necessary. We will take violations very seriously as they pose a risk to public health.

I appreciate how far-reaching these measures are for you. Restaurants and bars, theatres, music venues, museums and large public events play a big part in our daily lives and our neighbourhoods. Businesses and organisations are now seeing a dramatic fall in their income. They are very worried about their future.

We will take stock of the economic consequences for businesses in the region and examine how to limit the negative consequences. Discussions are being held with business and industry associations such as VNO/NCW, ORAM and KHN with this in mind. We are also keeping in close contact with the relevant ministries because a lot of assistance will be organised nationwide, such as the shorter working hours scheme and the possibility of deferring tax payments.

The City, GPs and the Public Health Service of Amsterdam are focussing their attention on vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, people in care institutions, the homeless and immigrants in shelters. Everyone in the care sector continues to work hard and tirelessly, especially in hospitals where they are under tremendous pressure. All these people deserve our support.

Despite great concerns, many residents are showing resilience and solidarity. We are seeing examples of citizens' initiatives, and many people are volunteering to help others, whether they are elderly, homeless or parents with school children. In the coming months, the fight against coronavirus will demand a lot from all of us. We will have to be careful with our social contact, but we must also look out for each other and protect and help those who are most in need.

My heart goes out to the residents who are infected and are at home in isolation or in hospital. And I wish you all the very best.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor Femke Halsema
Chair of the Security Region Amsterdam-Amstelland

The Security Region Amsterdam-Amstelland consists of the communities of Aalsmeer, Amsterdam, Amstelveen, Diemen, Ouder-Amstel and Uithoorn. If you have any questions, please call the national telephone number 0800 - 1351.