Facts and figures *flu in the Netherlands*  
**Winter 2018/2019**

RIVM conducts research on influenza and vaccination in the Netherlands. Using the data collected, RIVM gives insight into the key facts and figures on flu and the flu vaccine.

- **The flu epidemic lasted 14 weeks.**
- **±400,000 patients** had symptomatic influenza in the period between the beginning of October until the end of May.
- **165,000 general practitioner consultations** for flu-like symptoms during the epidemic.
- **±11,000 hospitalisations** Many people were admitted to hospital with flu complications, such as pneumonia.
- **Vaccine**
  - A new flu vaccine is developed every year because flu viruses are constantly changing.
- **FLU VACCINE**
  - About half of the people who were eligible to receive a flu vaccination were vaccinated against flu.
- **EFFECTIVENESS**
  - The 2018 flu vaccine was moderate effective against the flu strain that most circulated this winter.
- **2,900 more people than expected died during the epidemic period. These extra deaths were associated with the flu epidemic.**