COVID-19 and healthcare workers

13,884 healthcare workers aged 18 to 69 had been reported to have COVID-19, as of 30 April at 10:00 a.m. This includes healthcare workers in hospitals and elsewhere. It is not known or cannot be traced whether the deceased healthcare workers contracted the virus in the course of their work or elsewhere. Out of these confirmed cases among healthcare workers, 458 hospital admissions were reported (3%). Nine healthcare workers have been reported deceased, in the age groups between 45 and 69 years. Six of the deceased healthcare workers are known to have had pre-existing health problems. That information is not yet available on the other three deceased healthcare workers.

Healthcare workers tested more often

Healthcare workers who have symptoms have easy access to tests, which is why they constitute a significant percentage of the number of COVID-19 patients reported. People who are not employed as healthcare workers are generally only tested if they have a higher risk of severe illness from the virus or have been admitted to hospital. There have been 24,054 reports of confirmed COVID-19 patients aged 18 to 69 years, and 57% (13,884) of those reports are healthcare workers. Of all patients aged 18 to 69 years admitted to hospital who were reported to have COVID-19, 8% (5,491) were healthcare workers. Of the 547 COVID-19 patients aged 18 to 69 years who are reported to have died, 1.6% were healthcare workers. About 11% of all Dutch people aged 18 to 69 years are employed as healthcare workers. (Source: Statistics Netherlands – CBS Statline.)

The age distribution and the male/female ratio amongst healthcare workers is different from that of other COVID-19 patients. The following charts show the number of confirmed COVID-19 patients per age group for both healthcare workers and other patients. Healthcare workers are on average younger and more often women (See update of 14 April). The blue line shows the number of men and the purple line shows the number of women.
Figuur 1. Leeftijdsverdeling en man-vrouwverdeling van gemelde COVID-19 patiënten die werkzaam zijn als zorgmedewerker, bron Osiris, gegevens t/m 30 april 2020

Figuur 2. Leeftijdsverdeling en man-vrouwverdeling van gemelde COVID-19 patiënten die niet werkzaam zijn als zorgmedewerker of waarbij dit onbekend is, bron Osiris, gegevens t/m 30 april 2020.