The National Immunisation Programme (NIP) in 2020-2021

Highlights Surveillance

**Vaccination uptake**
The national immunisation coverage increased for the second year in a row for nearly all vaccinations. DTaP-IPV vaccination coverage (newborns) increased with 0.5% to 93.1%.

HPV vaccination coverage for girls increased with 10% to 63.1%.

**Immunosurveillance**
The pertussis seroprevalence in the Caribbean Netherlands was higher than anticipated, mostly among younger people:

- **Young adults (18-29 years)**: 17%
- **Adolescents (12-17 years)**: 16%

**Disease**
The number of persons with meningococcal disease type W decreased greatly in 2020. The MenACWY-vaccination was implemented in 2018, but the decrease could also be amplified by the COVID-19 control measures.

**Adverse events**
In 2020, 1,475 reports were made of a total of 4,640 possible side effects following immunisation. A decrease of 27% compared to 2019.

**Pathogen**
Infections with *Haemophilus influenzae* type b increased in 2020. This is striking because for other diseases covered by the NIP, the number of patients decreased after the instatement of COVID-19 control measures. The RIVM investigates what may have caused this increase.
New advices and decisions

Rotavirus vaccination
In June 2021, the Dutch Health Council advised to offer the rotavirus vaccine to all children. Based on this advice, the minister of Health, Welfare and Sport decides whether or not to add the vaccine to the NIP.

Pneumococcal vaccination for the elderly
After 73-to-79-year-olds were invited for pneumococcal vaccination last year, 69-to-73-year-olds will be invited in the autumn of 2021.

COVID-19

Fewer notifications
After the COVID-19 control measures were introduced, fewer notifications were reported for almost all diseases covered by the NIP, than was expected based on previous years. Haemophilus influenzae was the exception. The RIVM investigates what may be the cause of this.

COVID-19 vaccines
This year, a chapter on COVID-19 was added for the first time. COVID-19 vaccines are very good in protecting against serious infection. This is known thanks to research by the RIVM, amongst others.

Little effect on NIP participation
The effect of the COVID-19 control measures on participation in the NIP seems small for children that had to be vaccinated in 2020, despite some delay in vaccination.

This infographic is part of the RIVM report “The National Immunisation Programme in the Netherlands: Surveillance and developments in 2020-2021”