Heatwave & COVID 19
Dutch experience

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RIVM

IANPHI webinar 12 May 2021
Dutch Heat Health Action Plan (HHAP)

“Nationaal Hitteplan”
- RIVM in the lead
- Commissioned by the ministry of Health
- Since 2007
- Activated 15 times (up till now)

Structure HHAP is based on existing national and regional institutions
- Every country has its unique Heat-Health action plan
- WHO identified 8 core elements for successful implementation

More information
Dutch Met Office

RIVM

Press release

Media

National Association of:
Care homes; General Practitioners;
pharmacists; informal care givers;
nurses; elderly; etc

Red Cross

Municipal Health Services

CITIES

Elderly

Informal care

pharmacy

GP’s

Home care

hospitals

volunteers

care homes

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COVID-19 and RIVM

- RIVM advises the Dutch government on how to control the outbreak as effectively as possible.

- RIVM monitors the COVID-19 outbreak and conducts research into SARS-CoV-2.

- Dutch government is responsible for communication to the public. RIVM shares up-to-date information and knowledge on COVID-19.

**Within RIVM**

Ongoing internal communication between Heat-health experts, infectious diseases and communication experts to ensure alignment of public health messages.
COVID-19 and Heat

Comparison COVID-19 Guidelines and Heat-Health Guidelines
- Almost a complete overlap for people at risk
- Ensure no contradiction of public health messages

Global Heat Health Information Network
- Around the same time, I also participated in the Heat and Covid 19 project of the GHHIN
- Beneficial to be in this GHHIN information loop
- Presentations for Dutch Heat-Health partners
- Information GHHIN used for Q&A on RIVM website

More information
- Heat and COVID-19 | Global Heat Health Information Network (ghhin.org)
- Vragen en antwoorden hitte en COVID-19 | RIVM
communication

In 2020, RIVM made new infographics and (short) animations

Infographic in line with covid-19 measures:
● give a call and ask what you can do!
Communication pros and cons

● COVID-19 and Heat Health messages from the same public health institute
  – Also UV and Ozone during heatwaves
  – Align all public health messages!

But also.....

● Several public health messages from 1 institute on the same time
● Trust in public health institutes is becoming an issue

● Also other Heat partners started communication on heat-health
  – Media coverage of public health messages from other heat partners is increasing
  – This is a positive development: awareness on heat-health is increasing
Evaluation Heat-health action plan 2020

Yearly evaluation amongst our heat partners

- Heat partners were satisfied with the timely and complete information
- Heat partners send out public health messages to their stakeholders or to their local heat partners
- Heat partners appreciated and used the new communication materials and the Q&A COVID-19 and Heat
And for 2021 ??

Thank you! - Werner.Hagens@rivm.nl