

# City of Amsterdam

## Situation Covid-19 Amsterdam

### Summary of city measures

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### Overview of the situation

	Amsterdam Region (Amsterdam)	Netherlands
Positive tested	1777	33.405
Hospitalized	553	9779
Deaths		375 <sup>1</sup>

### National measures

- People are asked to stay inside as much as possible
- The authorities will take action against groups of 3 or more people, who do not maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from each other.
- Mayors may designate areas, like parks, beaches or neighbourhoods, where people are not allowed to assemble
- All establishments serving food and drink are closed. Delivery and takeaway services are still available
- Schools and childcare centres are closed. This applies to primary schools, secondary schools and schools for secondary vocational education (MBO). If necessary, schools will be open to allow pupils to sit final exams. Universities and institutions of higher professional education (HBO) are also closed. Primary schools will start to reopen from 11 May. Schools will need to make a detailed plan; starting with a 50% occupancy of the classes
- All events that require a permit are banned until 1 September 2020.

More information here: <https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/tackling-new-coronavirus-in-the-netherlands>

### Measures by the city of Amsterdam

#### Social affairs

- The initiative 'Everybody connected' makes 1000 refurbished laptops and 1350 internet connections available to elderly people and citizens with a low budget who lack these facilities. These laptops are checked and cleaned when necessary by social enterprises such as [Cybersoek](#) who work (safely) with volunteers with a distance to the labour market
- The platform [www.wijamsterdam.nl](http://www.wijamsterdam.nl) connects community initiatives (300+)
- Regarding domestic violence citizens will be able to reach out to their pharmacy by using a special word. This process is developed together with the national government and pharmacies.

- If contract partners or beneficiaries of subsidies are not able to live up to their targets as previously agreed upon in, the City of Amsterdam will still pay them, as long as their expenditure has not decreased.

### **Support to homeless people**

- There are daytime and night shelters at different locations available for homeless people to ensure that people do not spend much together in one room
- Following the security measures there is a reduction of the amount of people per location, 400 beds to 3 rooms with 50 beds. Alternative locations are assigned
- Daytime shelters available for 100 people
- Vulnerable families are moved to hotel and hostel rooms

### **Education**

- The City of Amsterdam provides 6300 chrome books and 800 wifi-hotspots, which were distributed among schools. Students can borrow these devices as long as the schools are closed. There is one laptop available for each family.
- Parents in Amsterdam with children in preschools normally pay the fee depending on their income. At the moment, children cannot attend preschools while the fees are not paused. The City Government will cover the costs of these fees in case parents do not receive child care allowance from the national government.
- For children who are in need of more support the necessary measures are taken in cooperation with our partners
- In cooperation with the schools daycare will be made available for children who are in an unsafe family situation
- For children who have difficulties to study at home it is possible to go to school a certain amount of hours a week

### **Work and income**

- The city set in place a measure to support local independent entrepreneurs, among which freelancers, with income support and company credit so that they can better continue their company. (Financial help is announced by the national government)
- 14/04: 41.301 people applied which is 40% of all freelance entrepreneurs in the city.

### **Technology Office**

- Action plan for watchdog role on Coronavirus Surveillance in Amsterdam to protect Digital Rights.
- Start of R&D for Unlock Amsterdam, to analyze which tech can be used to ease the lockdown-process.
- To support the Corona-crisis team the Corona data exchange started with data-gathering and analyses to measure the impact of measures.
- Monitor on the stability and resilience of the internet in Amsterdam
- The city maps the risks in supply chain's, ie. The supply chain for public safety
- Monitor on impact cyber/digital safety (increased because of rapidly education, work, etc. moved to online)
- Explore how to support the move from the arts and creative industry to online.

- Start of Startup in Residence program for the recovery-phase on smart mobility, circular economy and digital city.

### **Economic measures**

- The City has announced a 50 million euro emergency fund to take the necessary measures during the Corona crisis
- The ban on gatherings does not apply to public markets as these play a crucial role in bringing food to consumers in some parts of the country. Municipalities and market superintendents will examine ways that a good distance between members of the public can be maintained.
- The City has decided to not ask fees to entrepreneurs at local markets. Because of security measures, not all entrepreneurs can continue their fixed spots at the local market and thus fees are suspended.
- The City will not send reminders or debt collection agencies for unpaid rent to entrepreneurs who are renting municipality property.

### **Mobility**

- The City of Amsterdam provides free parking space for health care workers who are fulfilling crucial work during the corona crisis. Almost 4700 parking licenses have been granted.
- Infrastructural projects can still take place during the corona crisis. However, some projects are faced with less available employees. There is also a risk of decreased deliverance of materials and availability of foreign workers.
- There is a ban on the use of leisure boats in the center
- The use of public transport has decreased greatly. During the last weeks only 10-20% of the usual travelers are now using public transport. The local transport company in Amsterdam has therefore changed its timetables to less rides
- Due to the lower capacity of public transport, employees take up other tasks such as transporting health care personnel to patients and from the hospital back home
- Trams and metro's are cleaned multiple times a day
- To counteract loneliness a phone line has been set up for citizens to call and talk to staff members of the municipal public transport company)

### **Arts and Culture**

- 13 March: all events/gatherings are forbidden, meaning all cultural venues must be closed. These orders are in place until May 20. All outdoor events that are required to be licensed are forbidden until September 1
- National government has presented a 25 billion Economic Relief Plan including support to workers and businesses in the art and culture sector. In addition to this, on 15 April the national government announced a 300 million euros relieve Plan for the Dutch cultural sector
- Amsterdam is exploring additional measures, from a city wide perspective, as well as sector focused. At the same time a large scale economic impact analysis of the city's arts and cultural sector is being delivered by the City's department for Arts and Culture.
- Amsterdam is part of a national taskforce, led by the Minister of Culture, to explore additional measures that are needed

- A key focus is on communications, guiding the cultural sector as effectively as possible to the relief packages that are offered. A special emphasis is put on self-employed artists and professionals
- A fast track fund has been launched at the Amsterdam Fund for the Arts for art projects that respond to the Corona crisis. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to citizens (digitally) and reflect on the current crisis. The amount differs from 1500 – 5000 euros.

### **Communication towards multilingual groups**

- The city tries to reach out as much as possible to groups that do not speak Dutch in their mother tongue
- The city stays in close contact with main contact persons of civil society groups and for example religious organizations
- Towards the Ramadan a vlog will be released with Corona related information

### **Distribution of food**

- The Food Bank Amsterdam, which distributes food to low income families, has decided to switch to distribute vouchers instead of food boxes. Their supply decreased recently, because of limited distribution of food providers, and because of health risks related to the crisis
- The common goal is to return to business as usual, which is the distribution of food boxes within the current limits because of the virus.
- There is a lot of support from society. Many new volunteers have registered and there have been many donations
- There is support for initiatives such as Farmers & neighbors, where people collectively buy from a local/nearby farmer.

### **Waste**

The city faces decreased capacity. There is a focus on:

- Making sure our employees can work safely and effectively outdoors. Labor conditions are monitored and we communicate our appreciation for their work.
- Making use of capacity effectively. In some places waste is decreasing, while it is increasing in other places. In some places there is more need for law enforcement than others. We are investigating whether new plans and projects can start off quicker than planned, like reconstruction efforts in places that usually are very busy.
- Limiting external hiring and expenditure. We call upon citizens to keep big waste (like furniture) indoors, to not put waste on the streets (instead of container) and not to visit recycling organizations or secondhand markets in order to avoid large crowds.
- Citizens are asked to keep clothing at home and not bring this to collecting services

### **Sports**

- The City of Amsterdam has informed owners of accommodations that they do not have to pay the rent for a period of three weeks. The national government has announced a support package. Through the national government sport clubs can apply for a one time subsidy of EUR 4.000.

- An online platform will be set up to promote sports for the people of Amsterdam during the crisis