Introduction & Disclaimer

For whom: This Covid-19 Reopening Protocol contains guidelines for meeting and convention organizers, suppliers, and delegates of meetings, conventions and events taking place in the Netherlands. Business events include trade shows and corporate events.

For this protocol NBTC Holland Marketing (NBTC) obtained information from the Dutch government, the National Institute for Public Health & the Environment (RIVM), (strategic) partners and other suppliers as well as via desk research. A list of helpful resources can be found below.

Responsibility: The responsibility to prevent the spread of the coronavirus is a shared responsibility. This can only be achieved when everyone observes the guidelines included in this protocol and follows through. NBTC provides this summary as a guidance for clients, organizers, suppliers, and visitors to business meetings in the Netherlands. NBTC cannot guarantee that following these guidelines will exclude any risks and NBTC cannot be held liable for any cases of Covid-19 that possibly occur following attending an event in the Netherlands. This is the sole responsibility of the parties involved when entering into an agreement.

Validity: This information was published on July 1, 2020 and will be frequently updated. Please contact NBTC in the event of questions relating to the content and validity of this information.

Helpful resources:
- For general Covid-19 visitor information we refer to the website of NBTC.
- Government of the Netherlands: Frequently asked questions about Covid-19
- Government of the Netherlands: Health and safety in daily life and at work during the Covid-19 crisis
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM): Current information on Covid-19 and specific topics
- World Health Organization: Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of Covid-19
- AIPC, ICCA and UFI: The good practice guidance for venues
- Event Platform: Protocol and toolkit
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM): Health check form
General measures in the Netherlands

Translating the general measures in the Netherlands into event industry related practices. To avoid the spread of the virus, please follow the rules below. Measures can vary by country; please note that these are the rules applying when visiting the Netherlands. Please make sure to incorporate any special Covid-19 and health and safety related requirements in your RFP for venues and hotels to adhere to your and your country of origin’s specific needs and conditions.

General measures →

Applied to meetings →

Social Distancing
- Keep 1.5 meters distance
- Avoid busy places and crowds
  - Only organize events that take the 1.5 meter distance rule into account
  - If possible, add hybrid solutions to avoid overcrowded meetings
  - Adjust maximum number of attendees per event/per meeting room

Health and Safety
- Wash and disinfect hands regularly
- Cough and sneeze in your elbows and use paper tissues
- If you have symptoms, stay at home
  - Enable attendees to wash hands regularly
  - Provide attendees with hand disinfectants or sanitizers
  - Provide attendees with paper tissues
  - Check attendees on symptoms, and if any symptoms are present, restrict access to event

* 1.5 Meter equals 4.9 ft. Please follow this link to have view at the full conversion table. View information of Dutch medical experts on the required distance to prevent the spread of Covid-19 here.
Important information for organizers and delegates

Information for organizers

- The Dutch government has decided that as per June 15, 2020, international visitors are allowed to and travel within The Netherlands again. Visitors from countries where the health risks are similar to or lower than in the Netherlands are welcome to spend their holidays in the Netherlands this summer. They must of course comply with all the measures and rules that apply here to combat the spread of coronavirus. This fact sheet is outlining the Netherlands’ enforcement of EU travel restrictions.

- Airline and airport information can be found here.

- Public transport: All passengers are required to wear face masks as of June 1, 2020. Until further notice.

- Maximum number of attendees for meetings and events: As of July 1, there are no limitations to the number of attendees, however this only applies when reservations by attendees are made in advance and health checks in place. If any of the organized events don’t meet these two regulations, the maximum number of attendees will be 100 per venue. Please find the link to the health check form in the useful resources section.

- Required capacity per person per event
  - Tradeshows and corporate events: 10 sq.mtrs. (100 sq. ft.)
  - Meetings and conferences: 5 sq.mtrs. (50 sq. ft.)

- Food safety and measures for groups at restaurants: The protocol for the Hospitality Industry reopening of Koninklijke Horeca Nederland can be found here.

- Special venues: information about museums and special event venues reopening with restrictions. For the latest Information check their websites, or contact NBTC.

- Restricted type of events: Festivals, concerts, and sports/soccer games with spectators with more than 100 people are not allowed until September 1, 2020.
Information for delegates

• Please also see general visitor guidelines of NBTC.

• The Dutch government has decided that as per June 15, 2020, international visitors can travel to and within The Netherlands again. Visitors from countries where the health risks are similar to or lower than in the Netherlands are welcome to spend their holidays in the Netherlands this summer. They must of course comply with all the measures and rules that apply here to combat the spread of coronavirus. This fact sheet is outlining the Netherlands’ enforcement of EU travel restrictions.

• At this time many governments still do not allow their citizens to travel abroad for non-essential travel. Please check your government guidelines and travel warnings prior to flight booking and event registration.

• Airline and airport information can be found here.

• Public transport: all passengers are required to wear face masks as of June 1, 2020, until further notice. Travel by yourself and avoid rush hours. More details can be found in the general visitor guidelines of NBTC.

• Always register in advance for your event; without advance registration participation is not possible. Select a time slot (if applicable) upon registration.

• Prepare yourself for participation: download event apps and review all protocols, guidelines and conference materials.

• Do not attend in the event of mild health issues/symptoms, and/or if household members have fever symptoms.

• When at the event observe all health and safety measures and follow updates on digital screens and conference apps.

• Wash and disinfect your hands upon arrival, during and at departure.

• Observe the social distancing guidelines, including 1.5 meters distance and routing.

• Limit your attendance to the pre-selected time slot(s).
Specific measures implemented by venue and hotel partners of NBTC

Venues in the Netherlands must follow the general measures published by the Government of the Netherlands and RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) as described in this document. Events will be designed and organized based upon these measures. Please make sure to incorporate any special Covid-19 and health and safety related requirements in your RFP for the venues and hotels to adhere to your needs and conditions.

Hotels and hotel chains in the Netherlands have implemented cleanliness protocols and measures, also based on the general guidelines. In addition, many hotel chains developed their own cleanliness program, and several hotels offer creative concepts to properly deal with the Covid-19 Reopening situation.

For more information on meeting in the Netherlands and the strategic partners of NBTC please follow this link.