

Dear colleague,

As you will have heard, **the Netherlands will enter a severe lockdown until January 19th** due to the spread of the coronavirus in the Netherlands. You can read more about what this means for you on the official (English) [website](#) of the Dutch government and the Dutch [website](#) of the Dutch public broadcaster.

Also for WUR this new lockdown will have consequences. The government guidelines request us to shift education to online forms again, except for **exams and practicals**. These can continue on campus as planned. Please note the following guidelines until January 19th:

- The **exams will continue as planned. This applies to exams scheduled online and to exams scheduled on Campus**. If students are not able to come to the campus due to Corona-related circumstances, they will have an online option as foreseen. We also prepare for the resits at the beginning of February 2021 as planned.
- **Practicals in period 3** can continue as planned. If desired, the course coordinator can choose an online alternative. If you prefer, you may ask your students to wear a mouth mask throughout the practical.
- **Excursions** and (thesis) **field work** can only continue if the group size is 2 persons or if students work alone. If this is not possible, the excursion cannot continue.
- All other education/courses of period 3 must move online until at least January 19th. This will be conducted by the scheduling team.
- **Individual study spaces** on campus can be used only after registration and are to be used by students who cannot study at home.
- **Thesis-labwork** on campus can continue.
- During the lockdown period, it remains possible for teachers to use lecture rooms and recording studios to record their lectures.
- Teachers and personnel assisting in education are **vital employees**. This might be of relevance to you when deciding whether your children will be able to go to primary school and the nursery during this lockdown period.

We would like to emphasize the following: 2020 has been a difficult year and it is necessary to relax during the holidays. Although we aim to start with period 3 again on the 4th of January, we strongly recommend that you do take some time off. The Brightspace help desk has restricted opening hours during the holiday period ([see intranet group](#)). The other staff of the education support centre will be able to help you again from the 4th of January onwards.

We understand that the new restrictions and the timing of this transition to online education again mean you might not be able to deliver the same quality of education you are used to. It can also mean that you will have to start your course a few days later in period 3. We fully accept this. We will always aim to come to a tailored solution.

We hope that we will be able to welcome you all back on campus again in the new year.

Kind regards,

Arthur Mol, *Rector Magnificus*

Arnold Bregt, *Dean of Education*