

# THE FIRST VACCINATION BY DUTCH COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS: THE FRISIAN PILOT

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the Netherlands, pharmacists do not have an independent authorization to vaccinate. KNMP is advocating for an independent authorization for vaccination by pharmacists. COVID-19 vaccination in the Netherlands is mainly carried out by the GGD (Dutch municipal health services). KNMP feels that pharmacists, vaccinating on a smaller scale ('fine-mazed vaccination'), can be an important addition to the large national campaign, since community pharmacies are located in neighborhoods close to their patients. Pharmacists are also known by their patients. This makes it easy for patients to contact them in case of questions or doubt to get vaccinated.

## PURPOSE

The purpose was to show that Dutch pharmacists have an added value in vaccinating people who hadn't reacted to the vaccination invitation of the GGD in the national vaccination campaign for COVID-19 (smaller scale 'fine-mazed vaccination').

## METHOD

KNMP and pharmacists of community pharmacy 'De Drie Stellingen' in the rural province of Frisia set up a three week vaccination pilot for first and second vaccination for COVID-19 to people, who hadn't reacted to the vaccination invitation of the GGD. This was the first pilot in the Netherlands with pharmacists vaccinating. The community pharmacy cooperated with the local GGD. The GGD supplied the vaccines, did the registration for the Dutch Corona App and remunerated the time spent by the pharmacists. The pharmacists vaccinated under supervision of a general practitioner, after being educated and declared competent by the same GP, who was also on stand-by for emergencies. The pharmacists invited patients who were not vaccinated yet, generated local publicity and organized vaccination sessions in the local pharmacy.

## RESULTS

During the three week pilot (december 2021), 175 persons (of the potentially 1300 non-vaccinated persons in the community of Oosterwolde) were vaccinated by the pharmacist. The pilot was well organized and no emergency situations occurred. The vast majority of the people were very satisfied to be vaccinated in their local, trusted pharmacy rather than in the large, anonymous GGD locations further away from their homes.



## CONCLUSION

Dutch community pharmacists have an added value in vaccinating people who hadn't reacted to the vaccination invitation of the GGD in the national vaccination campaign for COVID-19. Community pharmacists are also very capable of organizing the preconditions of vaccination and administering vaccines in the pharmacy.

