

Dear students,

We, at the Municipality of Groningen, would like to keep you informed of the latest developments regarding the measures being taken to counter the coronavirus. We would appreciate it if all residents could act in accordance with the measures that have been put in place by the government and the Veiligheidsregio (safety region). Such as: remain indoors as much as possible, work from home if possible, stay at home if you have symptoms of a cold or have a cough, sore throat or fever and keep a 1.5-metre distance between one another.

The regulations are particularly applicable to families who live together. Student houses are comparable to this situation but often contain more housemates than a family household. For this reason, the risk of infection is higher in student houses, especially large student houses, and complying with the rules is therefore also of extra importance. We hope that the Q&A list below provides clarity to this end.

The general advice is to remain indoors as much as possible and to only leave the house for necessary errands, to go for a walk or to travel to your part-time job/voluntary work if you are a key worker. The rule of maintaining a 1.5-metre distance between yourself and others applies in this situation, too. We are also advising people to limit their social contact moments and to only hold these within a small circle of close contacts. Do not travel back and forth between your student house and your family home. The chance of spreading the virus is increased by travelling. If you are visiting your parents, for example, then remain there for a longer period of time.

We trust that you are doing everything to stay healthy and to counter the spread of the virus. Please demonstrate common sense and refer to this Q&A list when talking to one another. Make it a point for discussion within your student house!

Q&A for students

Q: Can I be around my housemates in my student house?

A: Yes, this is permitted, but avoid social contact moments as much as possible. Keep as much distance as possible from one another; where possible, 1.5 metres.

Q: Does the rule of keeping a 1.5-metre distance between people when going outside also apply to housemates?

A: Yes.

Q: Can I use the communal spaces in our house if I have a cold or other symptoms?

A: Try to avoid this as far as possible and in any case, always maintain a distance of 1.5 metres. Are you often together in communal spaces and does someone have symptoms? If so, all other housemates must also remain at home to prevent any possible spreading of the virus. The measures regarding home isolation and family quarantine have been tightened. To read about all of the measures, please visit the RIVM website.

Q: How many people are allowed to visit me?

A: As long as nobody has a cold or other complaints, a maximum of three people may

visit you. We are advising people to limit their number of social contact moments and to keep these within a small circle of close contacts. The rule of maintaining a 1.5-metre distance between one another applies to this situation too.

Q: Are my housemates allowed to have people to visit at the same time as I do?

A: Yes, but make sure that you are in different rooms. It is of course not desirable to have a full house, with each housemate having three visitors at the same time who all enter the communal spaces. Please use common sense and comply with the general agreements of maintaining distance and not hosting gatherings.

Q: Can we hold a house party only for the people who live in our house?

A: This is not advisable as, in practice, it is difficult to maintain a 1.5-metre distance between each other.

You may organize a fun evening together, solely among your housemates. However, to your neighbours and passers-by who do not know that you live with 10 students, for example, it may seem that you are holding a party with guests. This may cause confusion and irritation, so please be aware of this and take this into consideration.

Q: Can we be fined for having too many visitors?

A: Yes. Police officers and municipal enforcement officers may issue fines of €390, if more than 3 visitors are attending a gathering and not maintaining a 1.5-metre distance between one another. They will assess this on a case-by-case basis and take a decision in the moment.

Q: Can we sit on our front doorstep as a group?

A: Your front doorstep is regarded as public space. For groups of 3 people or more, the required distance of 1.5 metres between one another applies. Considering that in accordance with the emergency decree, students who share a house do not count as a household, you must also maintain a 1.5-metre distance from one another when in public space. In addition, gatherings are forbidden, even if a 1.5-metre distance is maintained. This applies to gatherings that are organized or for which people make an appointment. It may also apply to spontaneous gatherings. Use common sense and limit the number of people with whom you go outside.

Refer to this Q&A list to talk to one another about what is and is not permitted. Make it a point of discussion with one another. Finally, we would like to point out the information provided by the RIVM and the Veiligheidsregio (safety region) and, most importantly: take care of one another and stay healthy, both mentally and physically!

If you have any questions about your health and the coronavirus, you can directly contact the GGD Groningen (Municipal Health Service of Groningen) via +31 (0)50 3674000 or, visit the website at www.ggdgroningen.nl. And for questions about your mental health you can contact WIJ Groningen via www.wij.groningen.nl, there is always a WIJ team in your area.

Kind regards,
Koen Schuiling Mayor of Groningen