

> Return address: Postbus 91163, 3007 MD Rotterdam  
<Initialen client> <Naam Client>  
<Straatnaam en huisnummer en toevoeging>  
<Postcode client> <Woonplaats>

Utrecht, 11 September 2025

RE: Data leak of personal data on participants in cervical cancer screening  
Our reference: <Volgnummer kenmerk>

Dear <Initialen client> <Naam Client>,

You participated in the cervical cancer screening programme. You sent in a self-test or had a smear test. Your test was examined at the laboratory of Clinical Diagnostics NMDL in Rijswijk, as commissioned by Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland. The ICT systems of Clinical Diagnostics NMDL were hacked last July. We were notified of this in early August.

Your data was shared with Clinical Diagnostics NMDL, but we have not received any information from them indicating that your data was leaked. Since we cannot exclude the possibility that your data may have been leaked, and want to give you the fullest possible information about this, we are sending you this letter.

We are horrified that personal data and test result(s) were leaked. We offer our apologies to you.

#### **What data was shared about you?**

Data about you that we shared with Clinical Diagnostics NMDL for the purposes of cervical cancer screening: **your name, address and city, gender, type of test (self-test or smear test), birthdate, citizen service number (BSN), test results(s) and name of your GP\***. These data may have been leaked after hackers breached the ICT systems of Clinical Diagnostics NMDL.

Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland did not share your telephone number and e-mail address with Clinical Diagnostics NMDL.

#### **What can you do?**

We understand that you are concerned about possible misuse of your personal data. We have consulted various experts on what you can do about misuse of personal data. Experts on cybersecurity advise being especially alert:

- For example, do not click on links to websites in an e-mail or app without double-checking;
- If you are not sure, start by checking if the caller or sender is who they say. You can check by directly contacting the organisation that the caller or sender claims to represent;

---

*\* If you went to your GP for a smear test, then the contact details for your GP were provided to the laboratory. If you only used a self-test, then the name of your GP was not sent to Clinical Diagnostics NMDL by Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland.*

- The website of the Dutch government offers more tips about what you can do to protect yourself: <https://rijksoverheid.nl/datalek-wat-nu>.

### **Your file at Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland**

The news reports about the hack of the ICT systems at Clinical Diagnostics NMDL raise many questions and concerns. You may have requested your file from us, in order to get more clarity. Your file offers an overview of the data that we retain about you, but it does not answer the question of whether any of your data was leaked in the laboratory hack. Unfortunately, it is not possible to give any absolute certainty about that.

### **Why do we share your data?**

We need data about the participants in cervical cancer screening so that the right test results can be linked to the right people. We use the citizen service number (BSN) to do that. This number is also used to exchange data with care providers, such as your GP.

### **Measures**

Various organisations are now investigating how this could happen. The following measures have been taken:

- We notified the Dutch Data Protection Authority (AP) and the Inspectorate for Health and Youth (IGJ);
- Immediately after learning of the data leak, we paused our collaboration with Clinical Diagnostics NMDL for the time being;
- We are looking into what Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland can improve in terms of security for personal data;
- We are coordinating with RIVM to investigate the exact scope and cause of this hack;
- RIVM has contacted the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) to request support. Z-Cert is coordinating the response to this cyber incident;
- The Dutch Data Protection Authority (AP) and the Inspectorate for Health and Youth (IGJ) have both launched their own investigation;
- The Public Prosecution Service and the Dutch police have announced a criminal investigation of the data leak.

### **Would you like to know more?**

Current updates on the data leak at Clinical Diagnostics NMDL will be posted on our website: [www.bevolkingsonderzoeknederland.nl](http://www.bevolkingsonderzoeknederland.nl). There is also a [FAQ](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact our customer service by sending an e-mail to [vragenBMHK@bevolkingsonderzoeknederland.nl](mailto:vragenBMHK@bevolkingsonderzoeknederland.nl).

Would you prefer to call? Then contact us at our **special information line: 0800 1617**. The information line can be reached Monday through Friday from 08:30 to 17:00 hrs.

We recommend saving this letter, so you always have the information for future reference.

Kind regards,



Elza den Hertog  
Executive Board, Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland