

> 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 through your GP, before 2017. When your smear test was examined, it was sent to the laboratory of Clinical Diagnostics NMDL in Rijswijk. Your GP sent your data at that time, which was stored in the database of Clinical Diagnostics NMDL and also shared with Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland. The ICT systems of Clinical Diagnostics NMDL were hacked last July. Your personal data may also have been leaked when that happened. Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland is sending you this letter to notify you about this.

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

Bevolkingsonderzoek Nederland was notified in early August by Clinical Diagnostics NMDL about the hack of their ICT systems and the associated possible data leak. At that time, it was immediately clear that the hack involved personal data about a very large group of participants in the population screening programme for cervical cancer. Many participants were personally informed about this by us several weeks ago. It took us more time to figure out exactly what the situation was regarding your data. Now that we know this, we would like to offer more information.

What data was shared about you?

Data about you that Clinical Diagnostics NMDL stored in its database: **your name, address and city, gender, type of test (smear test), birthdate, test results(s) and name of your GP**. These data may have been leaked after hackers breached the ICT systems of 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;
- 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.

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. There is also a [FAQ](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact our customer service by sending an e-mail to 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