

Prevention works

The hospital makes efforts in a range of ways to prevent the spread of respiratory infections. For care workers there are clear guidelines on the use of face masks, FFP2 masks, gloves, protective glasses and gowns. In addition, isolation measures are obviously applied if a patient is diagnosed with an infection.

Finally, depending on the colour code, air quality is systematically monitored and ventilation ensures optimal air quality.

Basis for the winter infection plan: the Respi-Radar

UZ Leuven is basing its winter infection plan on the government's Respi-Radar. From 1 October to 31 March, the Flemish Department for Care communicates how the circulation of respiratory viruses in society is evolving. In doing so, it works with the four colour codes green, yellow, orange and red, and formulates advice for the general population and for healthcare professions.

Colour coding will include the number of **consultations with GPs** for flu-like symptoms and for other acute respiratory infections, the number of residents with flu-like symptoms in **residential care centres**, the **number of hospital admissions** for severe acute respiratory infections and the concentration of SARS-CoV-2 in **wastewater**.

Furthermore, the Department for Healthcare takes the **course of virus** outbreaks into account. Because even if viruses do not circulate simultaneously or at very high levels, care may come under pressure, for example if outbreaks overlap or follow each other rapidly.

More about the Respi-Radar: www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be





Preventing respiratory infections

Take care of yourself and others

THE UZ LEUVEN WINTER INFECTION PLAN

From 1 October to 31 March, UZ Leuven's winter infection plan is in force, a series of preventive measures to avoid the spread of respiratory infections in the hospital as much as possible.

The winter infection plan uses **four colours**. The colour code is determined by the government's Respi-Radar. (More info overleaf)

-  **Code green** = low circulation of respiratory pathogens
-  **Code yellow** = increase of the circulation of respiratory pathogens
-  **Code orange** = high virus circulation with pressure on the healthcare system
-  **Code red** = very high virus circulation with an overload on the healthcare system

What is the current colour code? Check the information panels at the hospital entrances.

Find out when a face mask is mandatory and what other measures are important to prevent the spread of respiratory infections.



Face mask

 **Code green**

 **Code yellow**

Not mandatory EXCEPT in the following situations:

- You've got a cold (you're coughing, sneezing, you have a runny nose, a sore throat ...).
- You are particularly susceptible to infections.
- You're visiting a patient that is particularly susceptible to infections.

 **Code orange**

Mandatory in the following situations:

- **In every waiting room.**
- **When you're in contact with healthcare workers.**
- **You're visiting a patient.**
- You've got symptoms of a cold.
- You are particularly susceptible to infections.

 **Code red**

Mandatory everywhere.

Are you particularly susceptible to infections? Preferably wear an FFP2 mask.



With every colour code, it is important to disinfect your hands. At many locations in the hospital, you have the opportunity to disinfect your hands. Take advantage of this.

In any case, disinfect your hands:

- when you enter the hospital
- before you enter a patient room.



Are you ill and coming to visit a loved one? If possible, delay your visit until you're well again.

This recommendation applies to every colour code.



Have you thought about vaccination?

After vaccination, you yourself are less likely to get ill and you'll be less contagious.