



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*

# Colorectal cancer *screening*

Caribbean Netherlands



The colorectal cancer screening is a free medical examination to check for colorectal cancer. You can decide if you want to participate. If you participate, we will use the stool test to examine if there is blood in your stool. Blood in your stool could be caused by colorectal cancer or a precancerous abnormality.

## Why is this screening important?

Colorectal cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer.

The colorectal cancer screening program lets us detect colorectal cancer early, before a person has symptoms. Early detection of colorectal cancer increases the chances of successful treatment. Treatment is often less impactful. If we discover a precancerous abnormality, it may even be possible to prevent colorectal cancer.

## Who can participate?

All men and women aged 55 to 75 are invited to participate. This is the age group when colorectal cancer happens most often. You will get an invitation to participate every 2 years. **If you do not get an invitation, but you are in that age group and are not being treated for colorectal cancer, please contact us. Contact details can be found on page 7 of this leaflet.**



## Will you participate?

The population screening program has advantages and disadvantages. You can decide if you want to participate. If you participate, you will use a stool test at home. You can pick up the test yourself from the lab. The address is in the invitation letter. You use the test at home, and then drop it off again at the lab.

The population screening program may not always be the best choice for you. Sometimes a different test is better in your case. Talk to your family doctor about the best choice for you if 1 or more of these apply:

- you have bowel problems
- you already had an internal exam of your intestines in the past 5 years
- you are very ill and cannot get better
- you have chronic inflammatory bowel disease
- you have a hereditary predisposition for colorectal cancer
- colorectal cancer runs in your family

## The screening in 4 steps

### 1. The invitation

You will receive an invitation to participate in the population screening program. Then you register. Contact details can be found on page 7 of this leaflet. After registration, you can pick up a stool test from the lab.

#### Remember to bring along:

- your ID (Sedula)



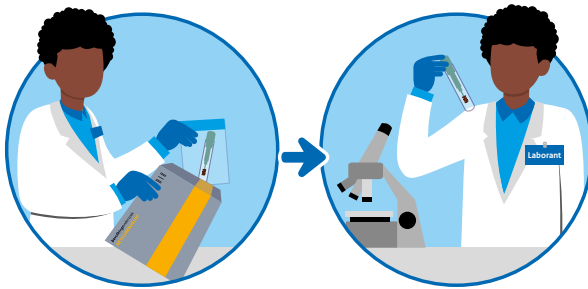
## 2. The stool test

- Read the instructions.
- Use the stool test.
- Return the test to the lab **within 2 days after using the test.**



## 3. Testing in the laboratory

Your stool sample is sent to the lab in Curaçao. There the stool sample will be examined.



## 4. The result

Within 2 weeks, you and your family doctor will get the result.



# What are the possible results?

You will receive one of the following three results:

## 1. You do not need follow-up diagnostic testing

You will be invited again in 2 years, unless you are older than 75 at that time.

## 2. You do need follow-up diagnostic testing

The family doctor will contact you, explain what the result means, and arrange a referral to the hospital for follow-up testing. The follow-up testing consists of an intake appointment and an internal exam (colonoscopy). This means that your large intestine will be examined internally.

## 3. The test cannot be examined

Your stool test had an inconclusive result. This happens sometimes. There is no result. The stool test needs to be repeated. You can pick up a new test for free at the lab.



## Go to your family doctor if you have bowel problems

Do you have 1 or more of these symptoms? Then do not participate in the population screening program. Go to your family doctor instead.

- blood or mucus in your stool
- a change in your stool that does not go away
- low or no appetite
- stomach pain or cramps
- feeling like you need to poop, even if you do not go
- weight loss for no reason
- tired all the time

## Your data

If you participate in the population screening program, you give permission to use your details and the results of the screening for the population screening program and any follow-up testing at the hospital Fundashon Mariadal on Bonaire.

## Protection of your personal data and privacy

For the population screening program, we use a system that has effective security. It can only be used by people who are authorized to see your data so they can carry out the population screening. We respect the laws that protect your privacy.

## Scientific research

Your data and the results from the population screening program may be used for scientific research. Good to know: in scientific research, your data cannot be traced back to you after analysis.

What if you **do not** give consent to use your data for scientific research? You **can** still participate in population screening.

For more information about privacy, please visit our website [www.screening-cn.com/en/privacy](http://www.screening-cn.com/en/privacy).



## More information

Please contact us for more information about colorectal cancer screening. See the contact details on this page. Or visit [www.screening-cn.com](http://www.screening-cn.com) or our Facebook page ScreeningCN for more information.



Explanation of the screening in simple language? Visit [screeningcn.steffie.nl/en](http://screeningcn.steffie.nl/en). You can also find the Steffie on our website by scanning the QR-code.

### What can I do if I need help?

We are happy to help you, please contact us via:



**Bevolkingsonderzoek  
Caribisch Nederland**

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**Saba Cares**

+599 416 3288 #4 (telephone)  
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RIVM is conducting the colorectal cancer screening program in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Do you have any questions, tips, complaints or compliments about the screening program? Please contact us via [screeningCN@rivm.nl](mailto:screeningCN@rivm.nl).

For more information about the complaints procedure, visit [www.screening-cn.com/en/complaints](http://www.screening-cn.com/en/complaints).

## Information in other languages

Deze informatie is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands (Bonaire):

Bo por lesa e informashon aki na papiamentu (Boneiru):

Esta informacion esta disponible en Espanol (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius & Saba):



[www.screening-cn.com](http://www.screening-cn.com)

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