

Dutch health body urges booster shots for those 60 and over

November 2 2021



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The Dutch health council advised the government Tuesday to begin giving COVID-19 vaccine booster shots to everybody 60 and older and residents of nursing homes, saying it was seeing indications that

COVID-19 protection was waning among older people.

"To get ahead of an increase in serious illness, the council advises the [health minister](#) to start offering boosters now," the council said.

The government, which was set to reimpose some COVID-19 [preventive measures](#) later Tuesday, usually follows the health council's advice.

Other European countries already have begun giving booster shots. France started giving [boosters to people over 65](#) two months ago.

Just under 80% of adults in the Netherlands are fully vaccinated. The government already has begun giving booster shots to people with severely compromised immune systems.

COVID-19 cases have been rising sharply for weeks in the Netherlands. The country's public health institute reported Tuesday that infections rose 39% compared to the week earlier and hospital admissions were up 31% amid a weeks-long rise that began soon after the government [ended most remaining lockdown restrictions in late September](#).

Infections among nursing home residents rose to the highest level since the start of February, the public health institute said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has killed nearly 18,500 people in the Netherlands.

A week ago, neighboring Belgium also [ratcheted up its COVID-19 restrictions](#) amid a spike in infections.

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