



Gemeente Maastricht

> RETOURADRES Postbus 1992, 6201 BZ Maastricht

Bewoners binnenstad/residents of the city center

For an English version of this letter, please see <https://www.gemeentemaastricht.nl/en/corona-information-point-citizens> Chapter 'Pedestrian routes'

BEZOEKADRES

Mosae Forum 10
6211 DW

POSTADRES

Postbus 1992
6201 BZ Maastricht

WWW.GEMEENTEMAASTRICHT.NL

ONDERWERP
Aanpak december

DATUM
4 december 2020

BIJLAGEN
--

BEHANDELD DOOR
Stefan Gybels

DOORKIESNUMMER

ONZE REFERENTIE
2020-19205

E-MAILADRES
stefan.gybels@maastricht.nl

FAXNUMMER

UW REFERENTIE

To all residents of Maastricht city centre,

Last weekend was a bit problematic for our city centre. As you doubtless noticed, Maastricht suddenly became extremely crowded on Saturday, and it was definitely far too crowded at a number of places in Grote Staat and Kleine Staat streets. Because it looked like the same thing was going to happen on Sunday, the Mayor appealed for no more people to come into town, and she even considered closing the shops if safety was going to be threatened once more. That's obviously not what we want to happen. You probably have some questions about all this, which is why we're including you in our approach to tackling the problem by sending you this letter.

Tackling the problem

The City has set up a "pedestrian pressure team" to monitor the situation in the city centre. Estimates are continually made of how crowded it is, based on information from municipal enforcement officers, a coordinator and the hospitality guides, supported by counts of the number of visitors by the Centre Management. The necessary approach to tackling any problem is then determined.

We work on the basis of four scenarios. Each scenario involves public information signs### and measures such as making streets one-way or closing them off. If there is a real threat to safety – and given the COVID-19 pandemic, also to public health – then the Mayor will decide what needs to be done.

Groen	<i>Rustig in de stad</i>
Geel	<i>Redelijk druk, maar er is overal nog voldoende ruimte</i>
Oranje	<i>Erg druk in de stad en ruimte is schaars waarbij afstand houden lastig is</i>
Rood	<i>De stad is vol en té druk. Verdere instroom voorkomen waar mogelijk.</i>

Green	The city centre is quiet.
Yellow	It's quite busy, but there's still enough space everywhere.
Orange	The city centre is very busy, and there's not much space, which makes "social distancing" difficult.
Red	The city centre is too full and too crowded. If possible, no more people should be allowed in.

What makes things difficult, of course, is that it isn't possible to estimate in advance how crowded it will get – definitely not if, like last weekend, large numbers of foreign tourists come in to visit Maastricht, and many of them don't pay much attention to the rules. We want you to know that we are paying full attention to this when communicating our concerns to the groups involved. Some people have commented that we seem only to be addressing the residents of Maastricht, although that's not the case. But the fact is, of course, that residents are more likely to come into the city centre on days when it's less busy. That spreads out the pressure, and we're grateful to you for that.



DATUM
4 december 2020

What makes the situation even more complicated is that although some parts of the centre may not seem to be crowded, safety may still be at risk in certain places. That's partly because shops have a strict (and effective!) admission policy, and only allow a limited number of customers to enter, and because the hospitality industry has been closed down, so that crowds often build up in a number of crucial places.

We're in this together!

When it comes to steering our city through this crisis, we're all in it together! The City authorities and the business associations must ensure that the rules are complied with. You as residents can do your bit by shopping locally, preferably at times when it's less crowded. As residents, you have the great advantage of being able to enjoy our beautiful city centre whenever you like.

Please understand the need for this appeal. We hope that you can look forward to a pleasant month of December, despite this difficult situation. If you have any questions, please phone 043 350 4000.

As we say in Maastricht "Haw pin!" Stay strong!

Kind regards,

Annemarie Penn-te Strake
Mayor of Maastricht