



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

Colorectal cancer *screening*

Caribbean Netherlands – Bonaire



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 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 there a colorectal screening program?

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

The colorectal screening program lets us detect colorectal cancer early, before a person has symptoms. That is important to your health. Early detection of colorectal cancer increases the chances of successful treatment. Treatment is often less impactful. And 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 the screening organization for an appointment.

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 Bonlab Playa or Rincon. The address is in the invitation letter. You use the test at home, and then drop it off at a Bonlab location.

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 get a letter inviting you to participate in the population screening program. Then you can call, app or email us so we can register you. After registration, you can pick up a stool test from Bonlab (Playa or Rincon).



Remember to bring along:

-  your ID (Sedula)

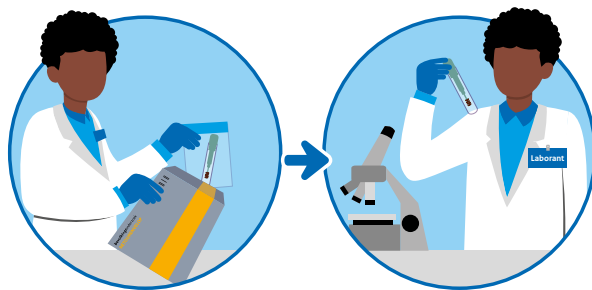
2. The stool test

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



3. Testing in the laboratory

Bonlab sends your stool sample to the laboratory 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 can get one of these 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 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. This test is also free. You can pick up a new test for free at Bonlab.



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
- less interest in eating food
- stomach pain or cramps
- feeling like you need to poop, even if you do not go
- unplanned weight loss
- 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.

Protection of your personal data and privacy

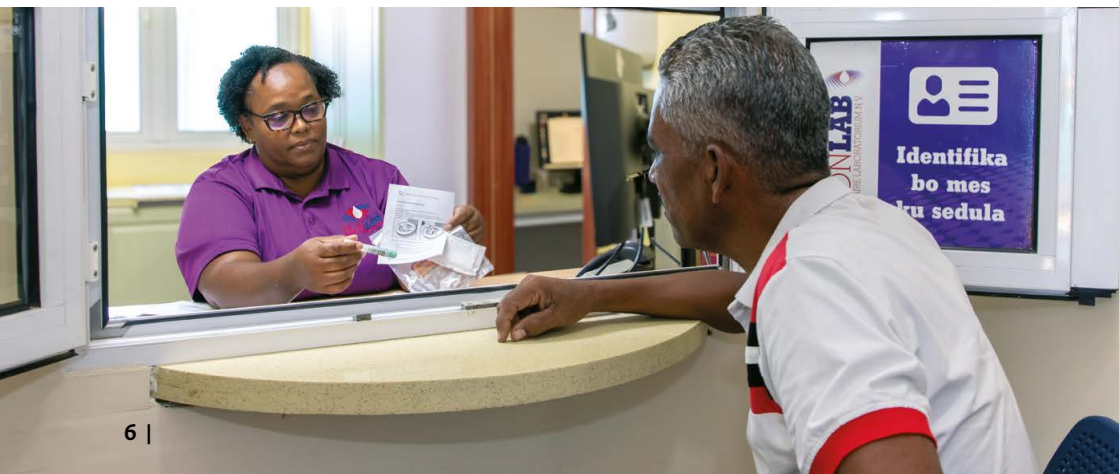
For the population screening program, we use a system that has effective security. It can only be used by people who are authorized to see your data so they can carry out the population screening. We respect the laws that protect your privacy.

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.bonaire.screening-cn.com/en/privacy



More information

For more information about the population screening for colorectal on Bonaire, please contact the Population Screening Caribbean Netherlands. Or visit www.screening-cn.com or our Facebook page ScreeningCN for more information.



Call +599 715 9200 or WhatsApp +599 781 0476 for more information about Bevolkingsonderzoek Caribisch Nederland.

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.

For more information about the complaints procedure, visit www.bonaire.screening-cn.com/en/complaints



Information in other languages

This information is also available in Dutch/Spanish/Papiaments:

Deze informatie is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands:

Bo por lesa e informashon aki na papiamentu:

Esta informacion esta disponible en Espanol:



The colorectal cancer screening in the Caribbean Netherlands is carried out by



Published by

**National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment, RIVM**

P.O. Box 1 | 3720 BA Bilthoven

The Netherlands

www.rivm.nl/en

March 2025

Committed to *health and sustainability*