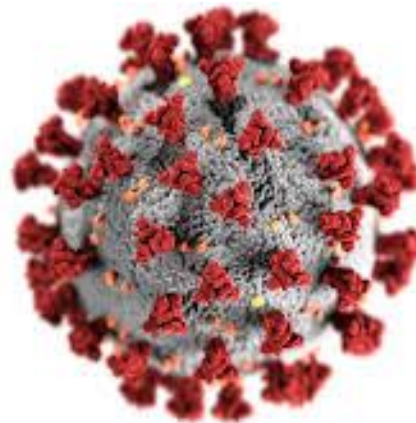




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**VOLKSGEZONDHEID,
VEILIGHEID VAN DE VOEDSELKETEN
EN LEEFMILIEU**



Role of the Biocides Service in the Coronavirus Crisis

19/05/2022

Contents

- ▶ Hand gels and disinfectants for surfaces
- ▶ Temporary registrations/authorisations
- ▶ Identification of strategic sectors and their needs
- ▶ Alignment of supply and demand
- ▶ *Community* masks treated with biocides
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Toxicovigilance
- ▶ Enforcement

Hand gels and disinfectants for surfaces



Disinfectant hand gel

product type 1: *human hygiene biocidal products*



Hand gels and disinfectants for surfaces



Disinfectants for surfaces

product type 2: *biocidal products not used directly on humans or animals*



Hand gels and disinfectants for surfaces

- ▶ prior approval required
 - ▶ evaluation including composition, classification and labelling, efficacy
 - ▶  national registration procedure (RD 4/4/2019)
 - ▶ European authorisation procedure (Regulation 528/2012)
 - ▶ takes several weeks to > 1 year
- ▶ 12/3/2020: 112 disinfectant hand gels
200 disinfectants for surfaces
- ▶ [list of authorised products](#)

Temporary registrations/authorisations

- ▶ hand gels and disinfectants for surfaces
- ▶ active substance under evaluation: RD 4/4/2019 - Article 21
"temporary registration"
- ▶ active substance approved: Regulation 528/2012 - Article 55(1)
"temporary authorisation"
- ▶ notification to EU Commission and Member States
- ▶ Simple application process - by e-mail - no fee
- ▶ Minimum requirements see WHO:
 - ▶ > 70% alcohol: effective against coronavirus
 - ▶ < 70% alcohol or different active substance: efficacy test required
- ▶ 43% handled within 3 days; 75% within week

Temporary registrations/authorisations

▶ 16/3 - 16/7/2020 : **433** temporary authorisations/registrations

→ 230 hand gels (PT1)
→ 184 disinfectants for surfaces (PT2)
→ 19 PT1+PT2

→ 367 products - national regulations (86% > 70% ethanol)
→ 66 products - European regulations (44% isopropanol)

▶ 12 April 2020 for hand gels
1 July 2020 for disinfectants for surfaces



▶ period of validity: 6 months

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Temporary registrations/authorisations

proactive approach

- ▶ Temporary registrations: Ministerial Decree of 23 July 2020



- ▶ Temporary authorisations: Regulation 528/2012 - art 55(1)



- ▶ + rise in number of PT1/PT2 applications in 2021

Identification of strategic sectors and their needs

- ▶ input to *Task Force on Shortages - Personal Protective Equipment Working Group*
- ▶ identification and survey of priority target groups by need/deficit:
hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, police, prisons, customs, airlines, childcare centres, funeral homes, etc.

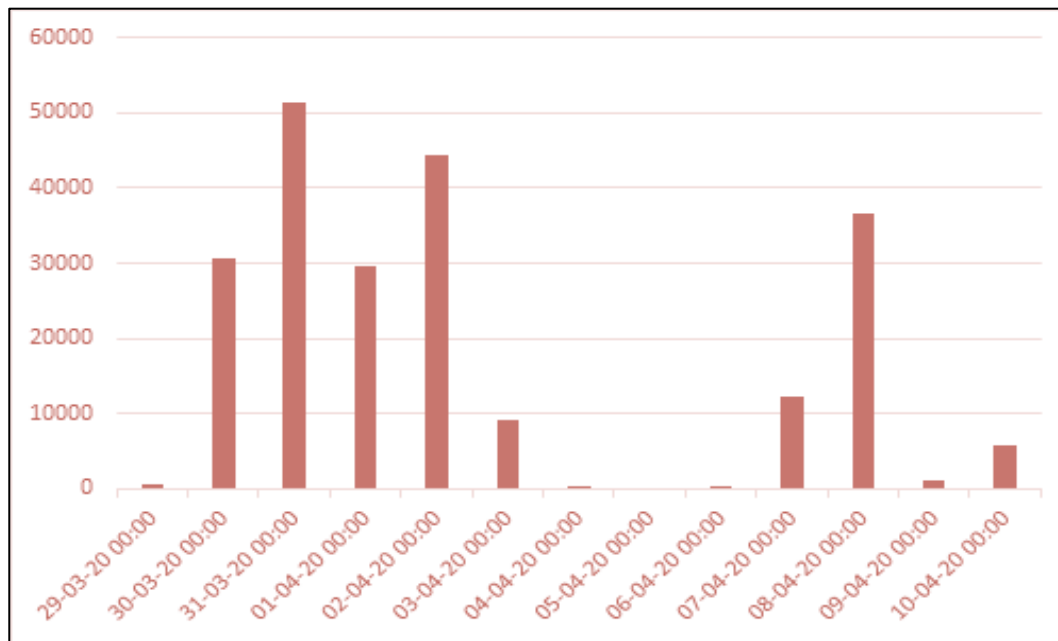
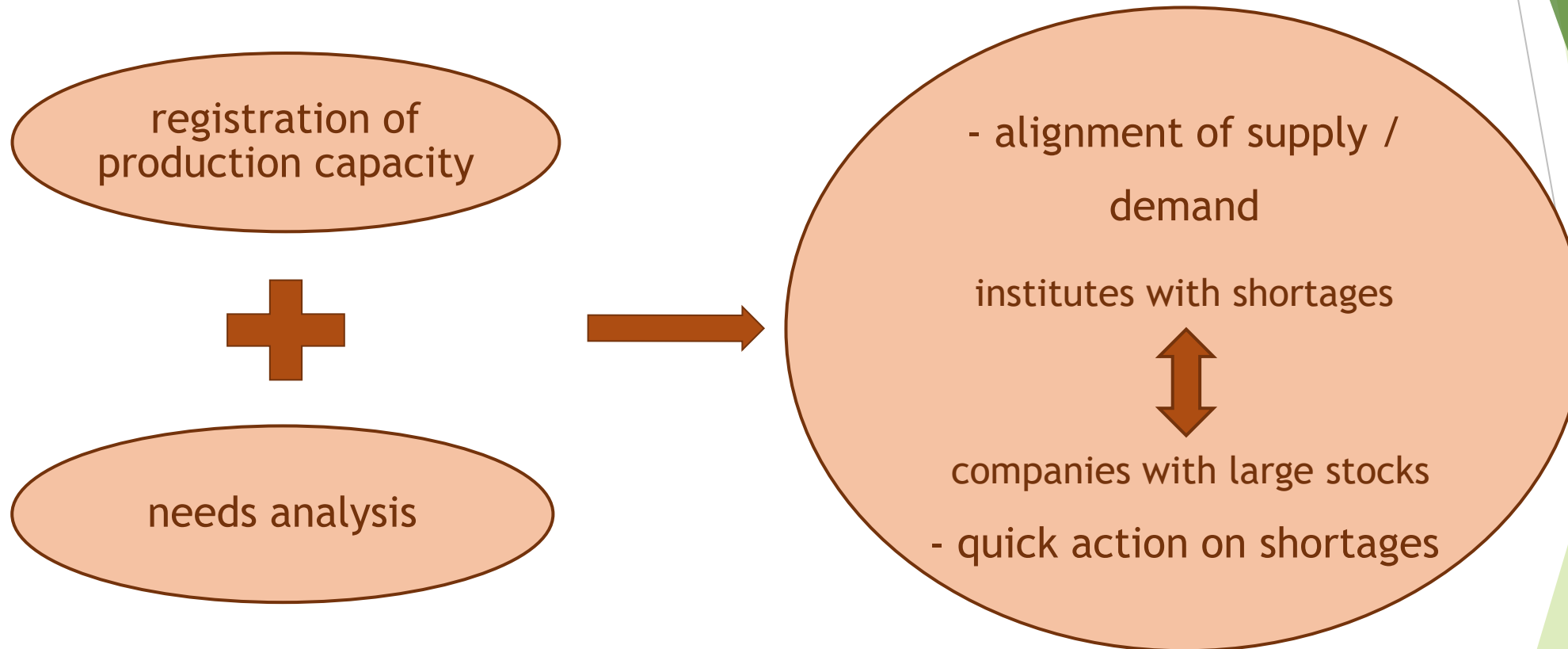


Figure: Analysis of requested quantities (in L) of disinfectants (PT1 and PT2) within priority target groups from 29/03 to 10/04/2020

Identification of strategic sectors and their needs: conclusions

- ▶ no general shortage of alcohol gels
- ▶ any shortages are local
- ▶ rapid identification of local shortages
- ▶ need for disinfectants gradually decreases
 - ↪ delivery of registrations/authorisations to cease

Alignment of supply and demand



Alignment of supply and demand

many new producers e.g. distilleries

↪ based on regulations from WHO



Sterkstokers: temporarily not gin, but disinfectant alcohol

Distillery produces 5,000 litres of hand gel for University Hospitals

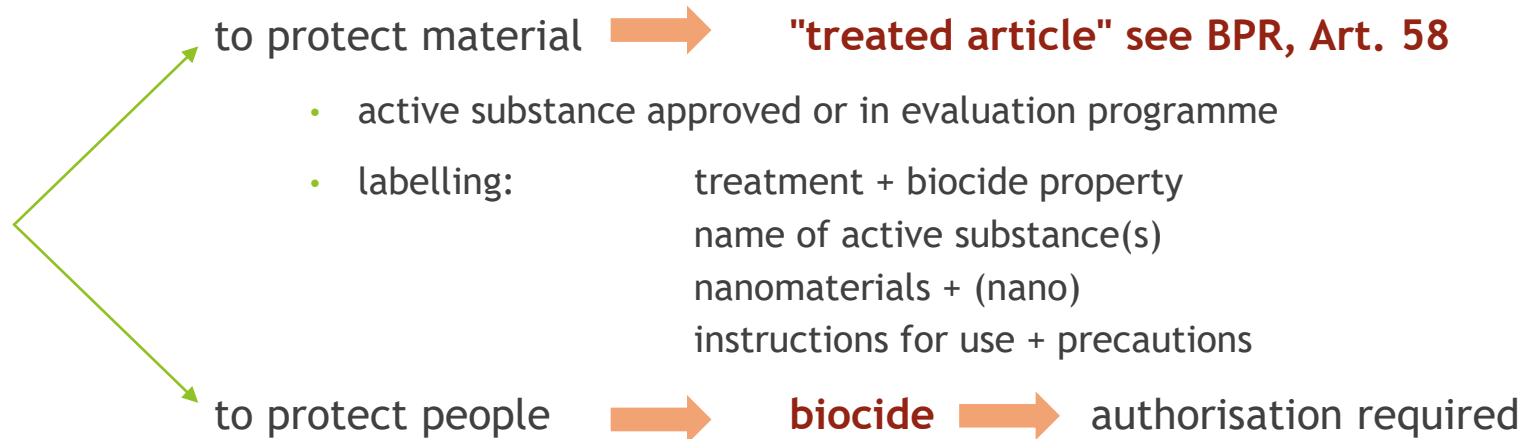


Alignment of supply and demand

- ▶ 31/3-27/4/2020: additional regularised production capacity:
 - ▶ 1,800,000 L hand gels
 - ▶ 250,000 L disinfectants for surfaces
- ▶ increase in production capacity for existing products
- ▶ continuity in production despite 'lockdown'
- ▶ problems in production:
 - ▶ shortage of packaging materials
 - ↳ in exceptional cases, acceptance of repackaging for internal use
 - ▶ shortage of raw materials
 - ↳ collaboration with FPS Finance: adaptation of requirements for denaturation of alcohol
 - exemption from excise duty

Community masks treated with biocides

▶ Community masks - treated with biocides



- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------|
| ▶ Community masks | → | personal protective equipment | → | FPS Economy |
| ▶ Surgical masks | → | medical aids | → | FAMHP |
| ▶ FFP2 masks | → | personal protective equipment | → | FPS Economy |
| ▶ inspection campaign | | | | |

Communication

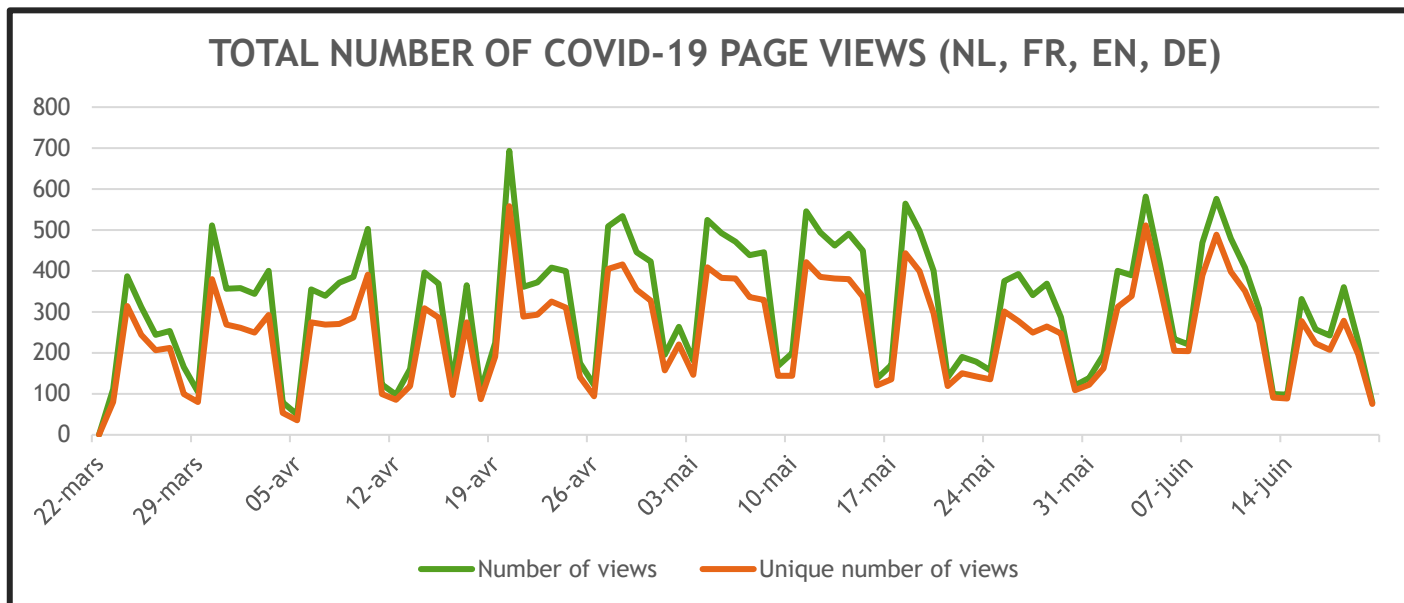
- ▶ to
 - professional users
 - producers
 - wide audience
- ▶ via
 - direct communication (e-mail, tel, helpdesk)
 - websites (Biocides, FPS Public Health, info-coronavirus)
 - social media
- ▶ in collaboration with
 - institutions (Child and Family, Poison Control Centre)
 - authorities (FPS Employment, Labour and Social Consultation, communities)
- ▶ validation by Risk Management Group and Sciensano

Communication - website

- ▶ Professional users - wide audience
 - ▶ purchase and use of disinfectants
 - ▶ Lists of authorised products (temporary + regular)
 - ▶ Practical guides and recommendations
 - ▶ Suppliers's contact details
 - ▶ Instructions for repackaging for internal use
- ▶ Producers
 - ▶ Procedure for applying for temporary authorisation
 - ▶ Information for pharmacists on production of hydroalcoholic solutions (RD 18/03/2020)

Website communication

Total number of website visitors per day in the period 22/03 - 20/06/2020



Communication

- ▶ direct communication with strategic sectors and producers
- ▶ helpdesk: 1 March - 16 June 2020: **63%** rise in questions asked
- ▶ newsletters at www.health.belgium.be
 - ▶ *COVID-19: what disinfectants are authorised?*
 - ▶ *Practical guide to cleaning and disinfecting surfaces*
 - ▶ *How do I clean my house in the era of coronavirus?*
 - ▶ *Disinfection via tunnels and UV-C lamps: health risks*
 - ▶ *Read before use*
 - ▶ *Illegal disinfectants and alcohol gels in circulation*
 - ▶ *Checks on biocides*
 - ▶ *Too many disinfectants in circulation without authorisation*
- ▶ recommendations for schools



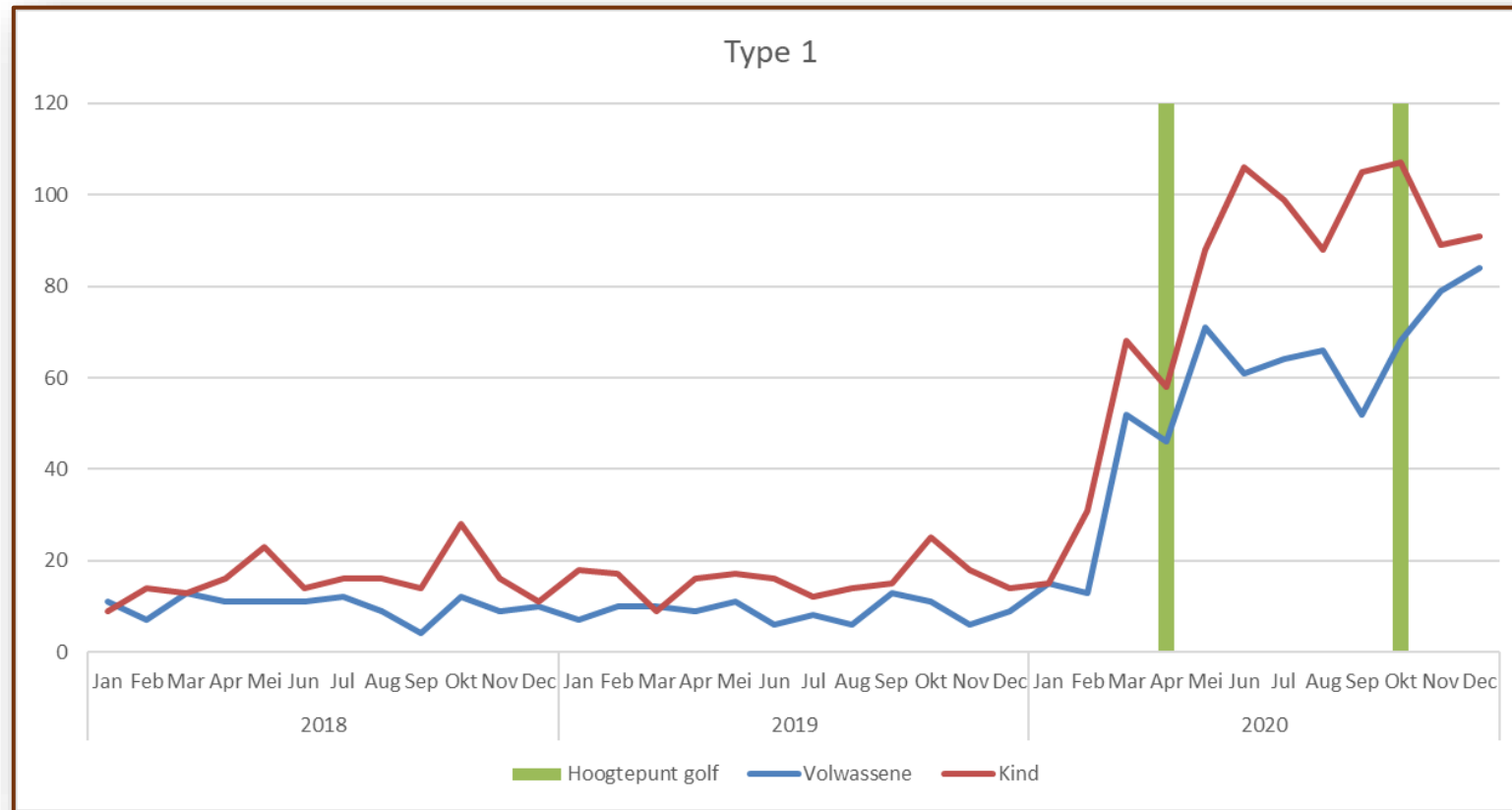
Toxicovigilance

- ▶ Poison Control Centre Study - 2020:
Analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on disinfectant exposure (PT1/PT2)
- ▶ Rise in number of calls
 - Product type 1 x 5
 - Product type 2 x 2
- ▶ Wide audience
- ▶ Acute, accidental exposures
- ▶ www.biocide.be/publications

Toxicovigilance

	PT1	PT2
adults	41.5%	70.7%
children 1-4 years	40.2%	18.3%
women	60.0%	59.1%
men	37.4%	39.2%
oral exposure	63.8%	35.9%
eye contact	29.0%	18.3%
inhalation		27.1%
active substance	ethanol combinations	chlorinated products quaternary ammonium derivatives

Toxicovigilance



Enforcement

- ▶ sharp rise in illegal products
- ▶ close collaboration with inspectorate
- ▶ collaboration with FPS Finance (Customs and Excise)



Inspectorate presentation

Thank you
for your attention!

