



HZ Weather Protocol

Marketing, Communications, Community & Internationalisation Department, 27 February 2026

Approved by the Executive Board, 3 March 2026

HZ Weather Protocol

HZ follows the [KNMI's colour codes](#) issued for the Zeeland region. Codes yellow, orange and red may be issued for all types of weather – precipitation, temperature, wind, thunderstorms. The focus here is primarily on the impact of the weather.

The HZ protocol is as follows:

Code yellow – be alert

The KNMI has issued a warning for dangerous weather conditions in Zeeland. The impact is likely to be limited, but it is advisable to check whether the warning affects your personal plans and circumstances.

HZ protocol

In the event of a code yellow, the HZ will not take any measures and all activities (teaching, research, operations and events) will continue as planned.

Code orange – be prepared

A warning has been issued for dangerous weather conditions in Zeeland. The impact could be significant, both personally and across the region. It is advisable to check whether the warning affects your personal plans and circumstances.

HZ protocol

Under Code Orange, we advise staff and students to exercise caution when travelling. For the time being, activities such as lectures, exams and research will continue as normal. However, we advise students and staff to pay close attention to communications from our university regarding any precautionary measures, lecture cancellations and how exams will be conducted. HZ communicates via the HZ Portal, website, social media and screens in the buildings.

Code red – take action

A warning has been issued for extremely dangerous weather conditions in Zeeland. The impact will be significant in the region. It is advisable to follow the (regional) news.

HZ protocol

A Code Red indicates a very dangerous situation. All in-person teaching and research activities, such as classes, exams at HZ locations and events, are cancelled. Buildings remain closed or will be closed. HZ communicates via the HZ Portal, website, social media and, where relevant, via screens in the buildings.

Decision-making

Alert function

- The alert function for weather codes lies with the Marketing, Communication, Community & Internationalisation Department (DMCCI). In the event of a code orange, DMCCI informs the Director of Operations and, in his absence, the Executive Secretary.
- In turn, these colleagues will, in the event of a code orange, consult the Board and Management Team and the Executive Board for any additional consultation (BDT) and potential decision-making (CvB).
- The Board and Management Team may, if necessary, seek additional advice, for example from the University Council or the Central Examinations Board.
- Due to the need for speed in the process, if the full Board cannot be reached, decisions may be taken by the Chair or a member of the Executive Board.
- The Director of Operations or the Board Secretary informs colleagues within the organisation of the decisions taken and coordinates the follow-up.

Crisis team in the event of a code red

In the event of a code red or a potential escalation to code red, the Director of Operations convenes the crisis team. The crisis team can scale up as necessary.

Decision criteria

Decisions are taken on the basis of:

- KNMI warnings and codes yellow/orange/red
- Safety risks associated with travelling to and staying at HZ locations
- Advice from authorities
- Possible signals from the HZ community

Timeliness

HZ is committed to making decisions in a timely manner, as many staff and students have to travel long distances to HZ locations. When making decisions, the motto is 'better safe than sorry.'

Downgrading

If the KNMI lowers the warning level, HZ will in principle follow this decision. This is assessed by the Director of Operations or the Executive Secretary, taking into account:

- the nature and remaining impact of the weather phenomenon
- local conditions and any residual effects (such as slippery conditions or flooding)
- the safety of staff and visitors

If there are no additional risks, the internal weather protocol is downgraded to the lower level. Affected staff are informed of this. This is communicated via the HZ channels.