

## **PANO: Hotel Corona**

### Hotel Corona

Spring Break 2020: thousands of Flemish people are enjoying their ski vacation in Northern Italy, carefree. Once they get home, worry sets in. They get sick. “It was almost unreal,” says Dennis, who fell ill himself. “It seemed as though the virus came to Belgium by way of our hotel. That makes you wonder.”

Pano reconstructs the first, crucial weeks at the beginning of the epidemic in Belgium. They turn out to be pivotal days, in which people, if they even could get tested, sometimes had to wait a long time for their results. Quarantine was not mandatory. Looking back, the skiers probably unknowingly passed the virus on to others because of that. Like Herman: “I definitely didn’t want to pass it on to anyone. That wasn’t my intention. But I probably did pass it on to a lot of people.”

The week after Spring Break, we still thought that Covid-19 was comparable to a bad flu. What lessons can we learn from the first, crucial weeks of the coronavirus crisis?

With reactions from Marc Van Ranst, Herman Goossens, Jan Stroobants, Minister Maggie de Block and Sophie Quoilin of Sciensano.

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