



## Minutes of COVID WG - March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Participating

<b>Manuel Bordoy MB</b>	<b>Kristin Dijkstra KD</b>
<b>Isabelle Verwilghen IV</b>	<b>Karim Kettani K2</b>
<b>Martin McGrath MMG</b>	<b>Dina Dragomirescu DD</b>
<b>Niina Viima NV</b>	<b>Judith Ecker JE</b>
<b>Caroline Hulsen CH</b>	<b>Diane Werhert DW</b>
<b>Justine Dauchot JD</b>	<b>Stephanie Buus SB</b>
<b>Laure Nossent LN</b>	<b>Ambar Lietar AL</b>
<b>Eva Puttkamer EP</b>	<b>Dan Nicolae DN</b>
<b>Peter Segers PS</b>	<b>Marianna Cosco MC</b>

### Update on COVID cases

All the students that were tested from the S7 cluster tested negative.

The nurses have been very busy, a lot of new cases on Friday.

9 students were tested positive last week, in S1, S5, S6, P1 & M – no feedback on whether it is the new strand.

Difference is made between high and low risk cases, only those sitting next (left, right, back and front) to positive cases are told to stay in quarantine.

It is important that parents inform the secretaries of changes in their emails or phone numbers because there are communication problems due to invalid e-mail addresses, phone numbers and separated parents.

Karim Kettani was wondering if parents receive an email for each case of contact with a Covid-19-positive pupil or if it is possible that several emails are received for just one such case.

Eva Puttkamer confirms that it's supposed to be an email for one case, or depending on the different classes the students have.



Cases increasing in every level last week.

Manuel Bordoy states that cases are increasing in Belgium generally.

Eva Puttkamer informs everyone that no child has been hospitalized during this school year, the problem is more at home with vulnerable parents - students who are sick do not get hospitalized, at least not at EEB IV.

## Organisation after Easter

- Easter holidays: full week of distance learning – APEEE getting divided feedback, with some parents wanting to have a full week of DL after the holidays and others opposed to this.
- Declaration of honour is now required by Belgian authorities for those travelling. The parents are asking that it be reintroduced this time as well, as it worked well after Christmas.
- Manuel Bordoy states that there are 60% of “expats” at school, and there is therefore a high risk of foreign travels at Easter. It is important that the school knows that some parents will travel, and this week of DL after Easter would make sure people are in quarantine after travelling.
- As for risk of pupils staying in Belgium going to “stages de vacances”, the risk exists at any rate, with close personal contacts outside the bubble probably taking place even in normal times.
- Could there be justified absences for children who need to be taken care of during the buffer week?

Some parents are fearful of the one week DL after Easter because they have to work and don't think they can handle their Nursery, lower Primary children at home with having to do their work. They are asking if children could be put in a “stage” during that DL week.

Manuel Bordoy states that the DL week is a school week on the calendar and it's not a holiday week for parents to put their children in a “stage”.

Isabelle Verwilghen reminds the parents that the buffer week is not a holiday week, not meant for children to be put in “stages”.

After Easter, all pupils will come back in situ fully, 100% of pupils will be present, so the “stages” are not an option. This buffer week is necessary to make sure that the bubbles are all safe when the students all come back to school on April 19!

Dina Dragomirescu reminds that the buffer week after Easter holiday is for bubbles to be established, not for extra activities outside the bubble such as attending stages or travelling abroad, it is in place in order to re-establish the domestic bubble.

The situation is not ideal for everybody, whether there's a DL week or in situ. Many parents have totally different views on the matter.

**Association des Parents d'Elèves de l'Ecole Européenne de Bruxelles IV Aisbl**

Parents Association of the European School Brussels IV Aisbl  
Elternvereinigung der Europäischen Schule Brüssel IV Aisbl  
Associazione dei genitori della Scuola Europea di Bruxelles IV Aisbl  
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- Karim Kettani is asking at what stage would the school be able to scale back to DL, if cases are increasing locally within school.  
Manuel Bordoy reminds that the buffer week will be used for that.  
Any measures going beyond the Belgian guidelines will be taken by the 4 EEBs together, who have agreed internally to align on the most precautionary measures.
- Martin McGrath states that frontal teaching is not the only means of DL at M/P.  
EEB4's DL framework allows for a variety of modalities when it comes to delivering teaching; in cases of specific concern about connection between teachers and pupils, MMG should be informed.

## **Next meeting**

Meeting to be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2021 at 9:00.