



Minutes of COVID WG - May 17th, 2021

Participating

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

Chaired by Mrs Verwilghen, Mr Bordoy is participating in teacher recruitment in Romania

Update on COVID cases

1 Case in S4 ENB but the COVID tracing center took that case up, not the school.

1 positive case in S7 IT, student informed on own initiative other students where there were contacts during the holidays. Tracing center took this up.

How to handle the absence of the students for testing?

Students did not inform via COVID mailbox. Ms. Kiss as S7 adviser was informed by one student.

Students have to stay at home, 9 or 10 of them in total.

1 week of quarantine. Short B-tests this week will be cancelled for students in quarantine and re-scheduled on Tue and Wed after Pentecost.

Many families asked about how to handle the fact that they were in France or other countries, but were not in dangerous situations. However, school needs to stick to rules. Everybody who has been away from Belgium and in a red zone for longer than 48 hours needs to go into quarantine. The school will be very strict about this.

A few teachers are absent this morning.

Vaccination of teachers

Isabelle Verwilghen has been vaccinated last week.

Many teachers should have been vaccinated by now, speed of vaccination different in Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia.

Some teachers have been called to their home countries to be vaccinated there, and school allows these absences.

Mr Boiy: European Commission did not vaccinate teachers during holidays, hopes it will take up now again on Wed afternoon.

Isabelle Verwilghen: Belgian system now faster than Commission.

Kristin Dijkstra: for some teachers it was unclear - should they decline Belgian appointment as they waited for the Commission. Hopes that teachers go for the first offer they receive, not wait for any other.

Isabelle Verwilghen: absences will be excused if they go for a vaccination appointment during school hours.

Mr Boiy: if you receive a call from your country before, Commission says to accept it.

Students suffering from long term Covid

Ambar Liétar; student in P5 absent since Easter due to longterm Covid. Student works with teacher. Parents worried - how would that be in Secondary.

Isabelle Verwilghen: we have cases of long-term absences every year, due to accidents and other. We have a system for that, teaching on Wed afternoon to catch up, special educational support.

We also started to work on next school year - the learn how to learn part, for all students. Not only for the sick students. All students suffer from distance teaching and we will address that.

Martin McGrath: if there are kids in P, please encourage parents to get in touch with me and we will arrange for SEN to help. It is "another" long-term disease and we have rules for this.

No A-tests during B-test period

Teachers have received instructions. One week before B-test, no more long A-tests, only 5 minute-tests should be done.

If you have a case, please inform the teacher to respect the homework policy, if it is not cancelled, please contact Isabelle Verwilghen.

Update on sports lessons: update on indoor sport, parent volunteers

Kristin Dijkstra: weather is unfavorable to outdoors, but we know now that the virus is airborne and we would like to mention that.

Isabelle Verwilghen: sports halls will be used for exams soon. Students will be indoors in classes and with no sports if it rains. If it does not rain, sports outdoors possible.

Ambar Liétar: updates on list of volunteer parents, 20 volunteers so far. Some section reps want to send it out again.

Isabelle Verwilghen: please mention if parents want to accompany their own child's class or not.

Ambar Liétar: We asked for exact dates and periods.

Isabelle Verwilghen: PE teachers appreciate the efforts of the parents.

Dina Dragomirescu: parents in Sec Ro section - would plead not to have sports indoors. Would it be possible to excuse the children from sports? They need to breathe more, they have cloth masks, some parents are really worried.

Parents are worried about long-COVID for kids and please limit the spread also during sports lessons.

Isabelle Verwilghen: understands that parents are worried about long-Covid and with medical certificates we excuse students. We have experts in Belgium who take decisions and we try to follow this expertise. We have a different situation - and we have sometimes 6 courses in parallel in Sec and to add there Prim.

If parents do not want children to take part, they can excuse them for 2 lessons, for more they need a medical certificate. Of course they will be covered then.

Isabelle Verwilghen will speak with the PE teachers - and see that parents are stressed. But the school cannot cancel sports lessons.

There is a large part of the school community who would like kids back in all sports.

Martin McGrath - sport is very important to ensure pupils' wellbeing. We have not been affected in the same way as our secondary colleagues, but we want to promote student's wellbeing.

BAC

Isabelle Verwilghen: last comment - the S7 will have BAC in a few weeks. Please ask the parents to ensure that students do not have close contacts with friends in the next couple of weeks. They will be in quarantine, they will have to come back later to take exams after - deadline of 11 June.

We want to avoid outbreaks. Please reduce social contacts.

We will organise a BAC - day on Friday. We have the authorisation for some activities. No ball, but some activities.

Update on Mat PRIM

Martin McGrath: update with nursery and primary. Masks still obligatory in P4 and P5 this week, from then on we strongly recommend it. All other measures will stay unchanged. Very few absences of teachers in N-Mat. We have facilitated absences for vaccinations in home country.

Next meeting

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 25th of May, 2021 at 9:00.