



Minutes of COVID WG - June 14th, 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 Werherth DW
Justine Dauchot JD	Stephanie Buus SB
Laure Nossent LN	Ambar Lietar AL
Eva Puttkamer EP	Dan Nicolae DN
Peter Segers PS	Marianna Cosco MC
Tom Boiy TB	
Gilberto Castorini GC	

Update on COVID cases

Two documents are being presented by the APEEE to the WG:

1. a draft proposal for the letter to parents informing them of quarantine
2. a review of the situation and questions about strategy for controlling outbreaks

1. Manuel Bordoy is reviewing the draft proposal.

Judith Ecker explains last week's situation: an email was sent out around 1PM to a lot of parents (91) and a lot of parents had to call the school/infirmary because they felt the message wasn't clear.

Isabelle Verwilghen: it was first time we had a cluster in S1 and a bit complicated as S1 students are not as independent as older students.

A message was sent to the nurses to inform them that any type of email to be sent out to younger students needs to go through and revised by Isabelle Verwilghen. She will take the lead with educational advisors.

Daniela Mutes will take the input of Judith Ecker into account.

Manuel Bordoy is asking who the information was sent out from: nurses or educational advisor, as Daniela Mutes was drawn into this last Monday.

He feels the school could improve the communication with Judith Ecker's suggestions.

Kristin Dijkstra: nurses could use additional support with COVID situation and day-to-day affairs. Would there be enough money in the budget to help out?

This is also in review for next year.

2. Eva Puttkamer: communication is adapted according to each class.
The communication only indicated second test because first test needs to be done within 72 hours. If that's not the case, only second test needs to be done.
If the communication has more text, it will not be read.

Messages via WhatsApp were circulating and wrong information was given to parents.

Correction of figures from the nurses:

31/05: 4 cases in Secondary

Date TBC: 1 case in Bulgarian class

07/06: family infection

S6 and S4: 22 students in quarantine due to level one case and not a cluster.

Cluster in Maternelle class: 6 positive students and these children were asymptomatic.

Nurses do their best to analyse and react very quickly.

Potential risk of false information if parents are to be involved and help out. Also, the medical secret needs to stay confidential.

Manuel Bordoy is asking the parents not to spread worrying news.

Proposal letter from our side is to provide experience from parents' input.

Publishing the figures weekly in a table would be helpful to everyone.

There has been lots of communication from S1 EN parents as they are confused why they were called back to the second week of quarantine on the same day they had come back to school.

Sophie Carly: important for parents to understand that one nurse works per case even though it is discussed with other nurses. They always keep in touch with the Brussels region's Commission communautaire mixte (CoCom – in charge of health issues in Brussels) and since it was a cluster in S1 EN, the CoCom had decided that these students needed to stay in quarantine for another week.

Judith Ecker: she is puzzled because the numbers are taken from the minutes. If they are to be corrected, it would be good if the school could give us the correct information.

Manuel Bordoy states that there are disadvantages to release figures as you are generating different interpretation of the numbers and people are pointing fingers here and there. He wants to be extra prudent with it.

OSGES does not make Covid-19 figures public either.

Still, Manuel Bordoy does not have any issues with sending the numbers.

Ambar Liétar is asking whether school management or school nurses have contact information of class reps.

Manuel Bordoy reminds parents that information is being sent based on need-to-know.

The APEEE has requested consolidated figures on numbers of students that are quarantined & positive/negative tests per class

Figures for positive cases this week: 7-13 June

- 1 case in Maternelle
- 2 in S5
- 1 in S7

Sophie Carly: respect of the date on 7th day is really important. Parents need to read the email carefully and not rely on what is said in WhatsApp groups.

No case during the weekend.

S1 cluster: test needed to be done yesterday and not earlier in the week.

Dina Dragomirescu: the situation is very difficult to manage due to fears of some parents. To counter rumours, it would be good to receive objective figures. This would maybe help alleviate work for nurses.

Another European school in Brussels does communicate the information on cases on their website.

Manuel Bordoy explains that some parents want to know who is contaminated and the school cannot give out this type of information because it's confidential medical information. But he agrees to give us a table with number of cases and quarantine.

Judith Ecker is asking what happens to the students who took the second test earlier than the 7th day.

Sophie Carly: analysis of the situation takes place and students that were in quarantine for two weeks can come back.

Les parents qui ont fait les tests à leurs enfants trop tôt doivent terminer la quarantaine de 10 jours et ne peuvent pas revenir avant.

Manuel Bordoy: a preparation of a table will be done each Monday.

An analysis of proposal for communication will be done as well.

Problems integrating quarantined students into class, no improvement after parents contacted teacher(s)

With this kind of trouble, teachers need to be contacted right away.

If they do not reply to the parents, the parents should inform Isabelle Verwilghen.

Il faut suivre la chaîne des plaintes, rappelle Isabelle Verwilghen.

Any update on CO2 meters

Peter Segers: a discussion with the Central Office of the European schools (ES) was supposed to take place but there was no positive answer about that.

Manuel Bordoy is asking Peter Segers to raise the point during the meeting tomorrow Tuesday June 15 with financial officers of the other ES.

Manuel Bordoy states it could be raised under AOB, as Peter Segers did not think the agenda could be changed.

Stephanie Buus states that the Belgian government adopted regulations so that bars, restaurants, etc must have CO2 meters.

For schools, it hasn't been decided by the Belgian authorities.

Importance of wearing masks indoors, even in warmer weather

Stephanie Buus: masks are being worn increasingly under the nose especially with hot weather.

Manuel Bordoy states that a weekly reminder is being done and supervisors remind the students to wear their masks properly.

An email will be sent to supervisors, educational advisors and teachers to actively telling the students about proper mask wearing.

Gilberto Castorini: the importance of mask wearing should come from ALL: adults in the school as well as classmates, parents, etc.

Cérémonie du BAC extérieure, en présence des parents

Karim Kettani : selon les règles de la Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles (FWB), une cérémonie scolaire peut contenir jusqu'à 400 personnes à l'extérieur. La question est donc si l'école pourrait revoir les règles pour la cérémonie de proclamation des résultats du Bac en ce sens.

Isabelle Verwilghen répond que ce n'est pas possible vu le climat météorologique incertain en Belgique car il y aurait 700 personnes dehors sans toit, mais c'est risqué au vu du temps.

Le « rooftop » au-dessus de la cantine est trop petit puisque distanciation sociale doit être respectée.

Il n'y a par ailleurs aucune possibilité financière de louer la tente plus la sonorisation, et l'installation d'une telle tente prendrait deux jours - ce qui est aussi impossible vu que les M/P et S1-S3 suivront les cours jusqu'au 1er juillet.

Par ailleurs, depuis la dernière inspection des pompiers de Bruxelles il est établi que le nombre maximal de personnes dans le hall de gymnastique est de 170 personnes.

Il y aura donc deux cérémonies distinctes avec un streaming en ligne pour les parents.

Cette situation n'est pas seulement liée à la pandémie. Il se peut que les cérémonies pour les années à venir se fassent de la même manière car la capacité des infrastructures a une limite qu'il ne faut pas dépasser selon les pompiers.

Isabelle Verwilghen déplore cette situation.

Un document en FR et EN sera envoyé à Karim Kettani pour pouvoir le transmettre aux parents de S7.

Justine Dauchot rappelle que certains parents pourraient parler lors de la cérémonie FR et EN. Kristin Dijkstra doit donner des noms de parents sous peu.

Manuel Bordoy: look for alternative solutions for BAC proclamation for 2021-2022.

Kristin Dijkstra: on a related matter, we should establish for the BAC council some sort of guidance from adults, practical details on how to organise the “Bal du Bac”.

Isabelle Verwilghen: the Comité des élèves (CDE) have decided to set up a sort of pamphlet for those questions.

AOB

Dina Dragomirescu: some parents have asked school management for leniency on absences for the half days that will start on the 22nd of June, due to different circumstances: gardenies with mixed groups from other schools, mask wearing, warm weather, etc

Manuel Bordoy is stating that the school has been lenient and understanding all year. Every case will be analysed on its own merits in order to try and find a suitable solution for all.

Stephanie Buus supports what Dina Dragomirescu said.

More cases have come since students have been back in situ 100%.

Next meeting

Meeting to be held on Monday 21st of June, 2021 at 9:00.