



Minutes of COVID WG - May 25th, 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 excused
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
Gilberto Castorini	

Update on COVID cases

There have been 2 new cases after the Ascension holidays.

S5 FR: 24 students in quarantine and P5 BG: 10 students in quarantine.

Kristin Dijkstra is asking whether the nurses have received the bus details of the students from the APEEE, in order to add a layer of protection to the contact tracing procedure.

The nurses confirm that they have.

Isabelle Verwilghen: 11 students were not able to take their B-Tests but those tests are rescheduled for this week.

Weekend email from S5 parents whose children are in quarantine: they are worried as B-Tests will start soon and the students will have had less preparation than other students in S5.

These students cannot follow the classes in situ. The microphones in the classes are not operational enough to follow classes in DL.

There's a request from the parents for full week of distance learning for these students but this will not be feasible.

The week before the B-Tests is for the revisions but this complicates the whole situation for these students.

Teachers are warned and are requested to help as much as possible these students who are in quarantine.

Martin McGrath: no update from Nursery and Primary.

P4-P5 students are no longer obliged to wear a mask but it is highly recommended.

In some Belgian schools, this measure has been extended.

Should the situation change, this measure might be reinforced again.

Concerns about families not following quarantine rules after travel

Last Monday morning, a parent sent an email to the Secondary secretaries about two possible students who did not follow the quarantine rules after travelling 48 hours outside of Belgium (over the Ascension holidays). In exchanges with the school management and nurses, it was unclear which procedure to follow –back in December, parents had been advised to inform the school nurses about any possible travel outside of Belgium without quarantine.

It was stated that if anyone leave Belgium for more than 48 hours, a quarantine was necessary, regardless of whether they had travelled to a green, orange or red zone.

The nurses follow up on any suspicion when the child says he/she is coming back from red zone.

They were in contact with the Belgian COVID tracing center on Monday and Tuesday.

If there is a contradiction between the tracing center and passenger locator form, the nurses follow up.

Direct information from parents or students creates a non-confidential situation that is not optional for nurses.

Rules: less than 48 hours, no need to quarantine.

If a zone is not red, no need to quarantine.

Passenger locator form: inform with tracing center.

Manuel Bordoy states that rules are quite complex but COVID tracing centers work very well. It is the job of the Belgian authorities to check if there's a need for quarantine, not the nurses'.

www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/situation-updates/weekly-maps-coordinated-restriction-free-movement

Karim Kettani: we understand the school cannot substitute itself for Belgian public health authorities.

But, we want to make sure that parents have the right to contact the school in case they fear any student has left the country for more than 48 hours.

Manuel Bordoy agrees that parents are entitled to inform the school.

Flow tests for teachers - will the European Schools follow the model of Brussels schools?

In Brussels' media this week, flow tests were delivered to Belgian schools.

EEBIV has had flow tests for several weeks already.

All teachers as well as administration and supervisors can ask for a test from the nurses.

Laure Nossent informs the parents that staff is young in our school and that is the reason why they haven't been vaccinated yet.

For PCR tests, they have to make an appointment as an external service comes 2 days a week to school.

Update on vaccination of teachers

The European Commission is in contact with the school to receive the list of teachers to be vaccinated.

After the 2nd of June, the teachers that are willing to be vaccinated will have received their first dose. The second jab will be 4 weeks later.

CO2 meters in classrooms (petitions currently circulating in Belgian FR and VL communities)

Dina Dragomirescu is asking if by September all the class rooms will have CO2 meters.

Some CO2 meters are under €100,00 and all classes should be equipped with one.

Parents could possibly also contribute to this.

Peter Segers asked the central office and other schools and their reaction was not so positive.

He requested that a call for tender be launched for all schools but it was not a positive one.

Manuel Bordoy states that if it becomes mandatory in Belgian schools, this will be applied in our schools as well. This would be done with Régie des Bâtiments.

The Régie des Bâtiments informed the school that our ventilation system is working correctly and EEBIV should not need to have CO2 meters.

Transition plans from P5 to S1

P5 coordinators have met with Secondary school.

No visit of the buildings at this time. It is not allowed.

P5 graduation will be online, like last year. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

SEN support coordinators will meet for a smooth transition between P5 to S1 students.

AOB: Mask wearing in secondary

Some teachers don't point out to the students that their masks are not worn correctly.

Dina Dragomirescu is asking Gilberto Castorini (teachers' representative) to remind teachers that the students have to follow the rules of mask-wearing.

Gilberto Castorini is asking that the parents inform the concerned teacher directly.

Isabelle Verwilghen is reminding the parents about the complaints procedure: teachers need to be contacted by the parents first.

Next meeting

Meeting to be held on Monday 31st of May, 2021 at 9:00.