



## Minutes of COVID WG - October 12th, 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>Marianna Cosco MC</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>Maria Koidu MK</b>
<b>Eva Puttkamer et Sophie Carly</b>	<b>Dan Nicolae DN (excused)</b>
<b>Peter Segers PS</b>	<b>Judith Ecker JE (excused)</b>
<b>Gilberto Castorini GC</b>	<b>Dijana Ror Boone DRB</b>
<b>Youssef Begdouri (OIB)</b>	

Kristin Dijkstra wanted to make sure we have the correct mailing list of this year's COVID group. Laure Nossent will send through the latest list.

### Update on COVID cases

The parents inform the school that the numbers are not up to date.

Is it still the intention to update the graph with case/quarantine numbers on the school website? If so, how often?

Justine Dauchot will update them now. She was off yesterday.

### New rules of quarantine

No quarantine in case of Primary cluster : Referring to point 6 of last TF minutes, "*Les futures règles indiquent qu'en cas de cluster en primaire, il ne sera plus nécessaire de mettre les élèves de primaire en quarantaine pendant la période d'incubation.*") – no reference to this found on Sciensano site. From when will this apply and will there be a mask requirement during this time?

Caroline Hulsen informe que pour les primaires, il n'y aura pas 14 jours de quarantaine. Toujours 2 tests à faire, mais le premier après les 72h et s'il est négatif, ils peuvent revenir à l'école... MAIS il y a toujours un deuxième test à refaire après 7 jours.

Le port du masque n'est pas obligatoire en primaire, sauf si les parents le désirent.

Maria Koidu is asking for the number of the FWB circulaire with the new rules. The new guidelines were discussed in the press but apparently had not been made official yet. Manuel Bordoy will send the most recent circulaire to everyone.

Maria Koidu: under the new rules, who is checking that the students who are coming back have a negative test.

Is someone going to the class to make sure that the students present are the ones that have taken a negative test. The school nurses follow up with the class teachers in Nursery/Primary and with the Educational Advisors in Secondary.

Il est également demandé si après une quarantaine de 14 jours, un deuxième test doit être effectué ?

Caroline Hulsen informe que la quarantaine peut être diminuée si au septième jour un deuxième test PCR est fait et s'il est négatif, les élèves peuvent revenir à l'école, dès le 8ème jour. Les élèves et les adultes complètement vaccinés peuvent sortir de quarantaine si le résultat du test PCR du 1<sup>er</sup> jour suivant l'exposition est négatif. Un deuxième test doit toujours être réalisé le 7<sup>e</sup> jour.

Si le test du 7<sup>e</sup> jour n'est pas effectué, l'élève doit rester en quarantaine pendant 14 jours et aucun test n'est requis.

Manuel Bordoy informe le GT que toutes les informations, y compris les lettres templates, se trouvent sur le site. <https://eeb4.be/covid19-notification/>

Isabelle Verwilghen et Justine Dauchot ont retravaillé le site.

### **Check-up from nurses?**

In one class a student has been absent due to illness for 1 week. The best friend says it is Covid, but no communication has been sent by the school. We presume parents did not alert school. For absences of 5 days plus: could school please contact parents and ask for a confirmation that it is not Covid?

Manuel Bordoy states that this could be done but long absences are not usual in our school. In any event, a long illness should be justified with a medical certificate.

On top of this, parents shall send a medical certificate for absences longer than 2 days.

Also, he points out that rumors are always dangerous.

We have to rely on the responsibility of the parents and everyone involved.

### **Antigen test vs PCR test**

If parents inform the school nurses of a positive antigen test, do they wait for PCR results or react already on the antigen test

Eva Puttkamer cannot act unless they have PCR tests.

## **Examens/tests en secondaire**

Ce point sera discuté lors du Conseil d'Éducation Secondaire qui aura lieu ce jeudi 14 octobre.

### **Second dose of the vaccine**

The second dose of the vaccine is scheduled for Thursday the 28th, during a B-test week for S4s. Most S4s have two tests the next day, on the Friday. What has the school planned if the students are not feeling well? (Quite a few students stayed at home last Friday after the first dose).

Isabelle Verwilghen states that the tests will be rescheduled before Christmas or in January, just as in the case of any medical absence.

During an absence of a test, it is usually required to have a medical certificate.

But the school will be lenient with this particular case as it would be the day after the 2nd vaccination.

Vaccination numbers: 104 students got vaccinated last Thursday.

Some students forgot their ID cards. It is important that students remember to bring them.

Mr Bordoy informs that there have been parents who have written to the school to criticise the vaccination campaign, which has been launched by the school in accordance with the Belgian Covid-19 policy guidelines and with the policy of EU institutions. In this respect, he thanks the APEEE which has intervened to express support for that vaccination campaign.

### **Cluster letter in PDF**

Parents of an S1 class received the cluster letter with attachment last Friday. By Saturday, the link was deactivated. This should not be the case because parents cannot remember all of the specific info right away. The doc sent to parents should be in PDF, so the nurses are not flooded with questions from parents.

Manuel Bordoy reminds the WG that the parents need to go on the website to find the information. <https://eeb4.be/covid19-notification/>

This information will be replicated on the APEEE website.

**The dates given by the nurses have to be applied and no other dates. Confusion can be created within parents' or class WhatsApp groups. It is important that parents follow the information provided by school – the nurses base their advice on a complete set of medical data per student, not accessible to parents.**

## **School trips to go abroad**

Four directors are discussing the issues about the school trips to go abroad.  
It is a big risk to go abroad with students who are not vaccinated.  
Quarantines are longer and national rules vary from member state to member state.

Some schools are saying that it would be better not to organize the trips.  
Some schools are saying that only vaccinated students would be allowed to go.  
Manuel Bordoy is not in favor of any of those options.  
A further meeting will be scheduled for this subject.

Stephanie Buus is stating that students would really appreciate if it were possible to go on school trips this year.  
Logistical issues need to be covered in order not to have any issues for the trips: being stopped at an airport or station; not being able to visit museums, etc.

Karim Kettani is stating that the term discrimination is not used correctly. "Il y a discrimination lorsque des situations différentes - par exemple personnes vaccinées et non-vaccinées - sont traitées de manière identique, ou lorsque des situations identiques sont traitées de manière différente. »  
Taken account of the specifics of this term, it is not discriminatory to treat a vaccinated person differently than an unvaccinated person.

Il faudrait également prendre en compte les risques inhérents à tout voyage en cette période, par exemple la survenance d'un cluster soit au sein de la classe, soit à l'hôtel ou l'auberge devant accueillir la classe. Si des voyages transfrontaliers ont lieu, il faudrait probablement privilégier les pays limitrophes où des voyages en bus peuvent avoir lieu – Pays-Bas, France, Luxembourg ou Allemagne.

Manuel Bordoy informs the WG that a lawyer sent a letter to the school and the OSGES in order not to ban non vaccinated students for school trips.

Kristin Dijkstra is asking if we have time to wait until the December SEC in order to plan school trips or have an extraordinary Education Council to discuss this.  
It's not just the EE schools that are impacted, all Belgian schools have to deal with this issue. It would be useful to have some time to gather more information and see how the situation evolves.

Isabelle Verwilghen: the school trips will be discussed on Thursday, during the CES meeting. We can have a dedicated extraordinary SEC, but the latest possible date is Nov 20. After that it will be too late to plan.

## **Lack of continuity of teaching**

One additional concern from EN Primary is the lack of continuity of teaching/kids falling behind/lack of a common approach among teachers for Primary children in quarantine. Some teachers put everything on TEAMS; other teachers seem still not to have a TEAMS account. How to ensure in Primary that students in quarantine receive some amount of online teaching and pedagogical support as per the school's policy?

Martin McGrath is writing in the chat all teachers are required to share an overview of content covered in class with pupils who are absent due to the requirement to quarantine.

He will send a reminder to all about this matter. In any case, parents should write to me if they have specific concerns and I will address this matter with the teacher involved.

However, he would like to acknowledge the commitment and flexibility of our team throughout this pandemic.

A little reminder to Primary parents will be added in the Newsletter.

Isabelle Verwilghen is reminding the WG that online teaching is only available to students in quarantine. Parents cannot assume that the students will be able to follow hybrid teaching for other reasons. Students who remain home due to illness should be recuperating and not following classes.

Manuel Bordoy is also stating that the school can be flexible and examine case by case approvals on hybrid teaching for other health-related matters.

Education advisors need to be informed of the student's situation as well.

## **Close contact to be on the bus**

With Nursery and Primary students, since the rules have changed, close contact students will be allowed on the school bus. As all students wear masks on the buses, they are not considered close contacts. In any event, Manuel Bordoy and Kristin Dijkstra agree that it is important for the APEEE and the school to follow the same protocols.

## **Next meeting**

Tuesday, the 26th of October at 09:00.