



## Minutes of COVID WG - September 28th, 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 (excused)</b>	<b>Judith Ecker JE</b>
<b>Caroline Hulsen CH</b>	<b>Diane Werherth 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 Ouafaa Elmeskini</b>	<b>Dan Nicolae DN</b>
<b>Peter Segers PS</b>	<b>Marianna Cosco MC</b>
<b>Gilberto Castorini GC</b>	

### A new member has joined the meeting: Mme Suzanne Patin from OIB

Manuel Bordoy explains to Mrs Patin the composition of the WG.

### Update on COVID cases

The Parents would like to receive figures per week since the reopening of the school. They would like to receive an evolution of the cases, as well as the number of students in quarantine.

The school year has started with certain normality in comparison to some other EEB schools in Brussels.

We have had very little incidents in Nursery and Primary school: 1 class in Nursery was quarantined and no class in Primary.

For Secondary: the cases have affected one class altogether or certain pupils depending on the options.

Justine Dauchot is taking the floor as she will publish the numbers of the school's website (see Annex hereafter).

This will allow to have a general picture of the evolution.

Two charts: one with number of cases per week and one with quarantined students per week.

Once a week, these charts will be updated.

After each holiday, it will be reset to zero.

Karim Kettani is asking if a number of cases per level could be published.

Manuel Bordoy is agreeing to have a breakdown by cycle: Nursery, Primary and Secondary.

OSGES is preparing an IT tool to inform all parents, but it's not ready yet.

## **Protocols for tracing and testing**

Protocols are the same for all the EEB schools.

They just take the protocols from the Belgian Health authorities and just apply what has been decided by the National Health authorities.

These protocols are also changing and the school is always in contact with Sciensano.

These protocols will be added on the website of the school, with the templates used by the nurses.

Justine Dauchot informs the WG that the templates are already on the website but will probably change shortly.

Parents are invited to check them regularly.

Manuel Bordoy is reminding the nurses that APEEE and OIB must be informed of positive cases. There are protocols in place and a legal basis exists for transfer of such data to the APEEE.

Kristin Dijkstra is thanking Manuel Bordoy that it is important to inform APEEE as in the buses masks are required and there are assigned seats

We want to make sure that we slow the process of the virus.

Kristin Dijkstra understands that figures and protocols are currently on the website, but when we receive questions and are unable to give answers to parents, we should redirect them to the website.

Marianna Cosco informs the WG that there was a particular situation that arose a little while ago during a weekend and that the school did not take any position (no low/high risk contact information received by parents).

Même si des symptômes apparaissent le weekend, les parents des élèves doivent être informés... ce qui n'a pas été le cas.

Infirmières : recrudescence des cas, gestes barrière à rappeler, garder le masque, être à distance, laver les mains, éviter contact avec personnes vulnérables.

Sont mis en quarantaine, les enfants qui sont rapprochés dans l'école, c'est à dire qui mangent pendant le temps de midi sans masque.

En ce qui concerne des élèves impactés pendant le weekend, c'est le tracing belge qui prend contact avec les parents. Dès lors, les infirmières ne se mêlent pas de cela car elles ne s'occupent de prendre contact qu'avec les élèves (high risk) qui sont en contact à l'école, pas pendant le weekend.

Diane Werhert thanks the school for the letters that were shown to her on low-risk and cluster cases, but she would also like to remind the school that letters need to have the information of the child's class as a lot of families have more than one sibling. And some siblings are twins, which makes it even harder to know which impacted.

Dina Dragomirescu is stating that low-risk letters are important for the parents of a whole class. It is unfortunate that children sometimes find out by their teachers about the existence of a positive case in their class. Also, everyone should be aware of their personal responsibility.

Alessandra Antonini states that after a class was put in quarantine, there was a confusion in the return dates. She makes a point on the need to improve tracing and information to parents.

Diane Werherth replies that dates can differ for different children as the first positive case will automatically have a shorter quarantine than when the whole class is put in quarantine. Also, some students are already vaccinated and they can return to school after the first negative test.

Therefore, the return dates will be different.

Maria Koidu is asking whether the school has already thought about the new rules from the Belgian authorities: Primary children will not need to quarantine between two tests.

As ES have mixed classes in primary, unlike Belgian schools, has the school considered whether it would make sense to ask kids of the class where there is a cluster to wear masks to mixed classes between the two tests?

Manuel Bordoy states that the school will look into that.

Manuel Bordoy reiterates that we need to be extremely careful with the tracing and act as fast as possible.

Inform punctually about the low contact risks even if cases arise during the weekend.

School has to take action and has to do its part.

New rules: while waiting for results as precautionary measure, maybe recommend the use of face masks. To be discussed by the school.

## **Vaccination status**

Will the school be surveying staff and parents/students about vaccination status (on a voluntary basis)?

If this is the wish of the WG, the school could conduct a survey.

Some EEBs have done it. However results are not very significant as not many people replied.

Kristin Dijkstra thinks that the information could be useful, especially if it's on a voluntary basis and as long as it doesn't prevent students to follow classes.

Manuel Bordoy states that other schools have published questionnaires but that the answers are not very helpful, too low response rates mean that the results are not worth much.

Peter Segers states that the most important thing is to increase the vaccination rate.

The Commission Communautaire Mixte (COCOM) will come to school next Thursday to give the possibility for the students over 12 years of age to get vaccinated. Communication and registration will be sent to parents today.

Of course, the students under 16 years of age will need an approval from their parents.

The second dose of the Pfizer vaccine will be scheduled for the 28th of October, right before the mid-term (Toussaint) break.

A medical team will be coming to school, not a bus.

Judith Ecker suggests that the letter sent to parents could give families a chance to notify the school who is already vaccinated.

The letter has a link to a form with three questions.

Diane Werherth alerte l'école que les élèves de + de 16 ans pourraient se faire vacciner sans l'accord de leurs parents.

Cela pourrait poser des problèmes pour certains parents.

Peter Segers et Karim Kettani précisent que ce sont les règles belges.

Maria Koidu is not sure that this letter could serve as a survey as the parents of the students that are already vaccinated might not even open the letter. Furthermore, there is a bias that the parents who are more worried and more likely to have kids vaccinated would answer such a survey, while those not vaccinated would not answer, meaning the outcome would not be representative and thus should not be extrapolated to all school population.

Karim Kettani clarifie que l'APEEE n'a pas de position contre l'application des règles belges sur la vaccination des élèves de seize ans et plus.

Manuel Bordoy suggests that a survey on vaccination rates among students could be launched after the vaccination campaign.

### **APEEE Buses**

It is essential that information about infections be shared between the school management & the APEEE Transport Office, in a GDPR-compliant manner as was the case last school year. While it is the responsibility of the parents to inform the APEEE, we must do everything possible to curtail possible infections.

In the first point, Manuel Bordoy had reminded the nurses to inform APEEE. The school management agrees that this is very important and is also working on an agreement to form a legal basis for sharing information with the OIB. The amended General Rules form the legal basis for sharing with the APEEE.

### **Rapid testing**

The school doesn't have the manpower or the resources to do any rapid testing.

### **CO2 detectors**

Régie des bâtiments is not willing to install them.

The school does not see the added value to take on that investment.

CO2 information will be added on the website as well.

The school's policy is for doors and windows to be open as much as possible, and the school has invested in a number of portable CO2 meters.

Maria Koidu states that in some mixed classes, windows or doors are not open and some teachers are taking their mask off.

Martin McGrath will once again discuss this with the teachers.

Parents are reminded that any specific cases of non-compliance should be brought directly to the attention of the Directors and not to wait until a Covid WG meeting to report.

### **Negative test to return to school after quarantine**

Students have to take a second PCR test before returning to school, in line with the current Belgian regulations.

### **S7 students**

S7 students are feeling down because the class pictures cannot be taken. With Belgian guidelines evolving, could the school consider having class pictures at a later date?

Isabelle Verwilghen states that the photographer will come back.

A list of all the students in quarantine will be drawn up to fix a new date.

### **Next meeting**

Tuesday, the 12th of October at 09:00.

## ANNEX - COVID SCHOOL WEBSITE

les graphiques reprenant les chiffres de cas positifs et de quarantaines ont été mis à jour pour pouvoir visualiser les données par cycle (pour les cas positifs). En ce qui concerne les quarantaines, ces données sont un peu plus complexes à traiter et seront mises à jour prochainement. Les graphiques sont mis à jour une fois par semaine (soit le vendredi en fin de journée, soit le lundi suivant, en début de journée).

Vous pouvez les retrouver ici en français : <https://eeb4.be/fr/covid-chiffres/> ; et là, en anglais : <https://eeb4.be/covid-figures/>

Pour rappel/information, toutes les informations en lien avec la Covid-19 se trouvent ici : <https://eeb4.be/fr/informations-covid19/> et là <https://eeb4.be/information-covid19/>

N'hésitez pas à voyager dans le menu de gauche où vous retrouverez :

- Les communications transmises par l'école
- Les chiffres hebdomadaires
- Les informations à connaître en cas de notification de cas positif (des parents vers l'école et de l'école vers les parents)
- Des ressources pour assurer la continuité pédagogique
- Des liens vers plusieurs plateformes officielles (info-coronavirus ; FWB ; voyages)
- D'autres informations
- Les archives des deux dernières années scolaires