



Minutes of COVID WG - January 11th, 2022

Participating

Isabelle Verwilghen IV	Kristin Dijkstra KD
Sandra Maset Calpe SMC	Karim Kettani K2
Martin McGrath MMG	Dina Dragomirescu DD
Niina Viima NV	Marianna Cosco MC
Caroline Hulsen CH	Diane Werhert DW
Justine Dauchot JD	Stephanie Buus SB
Laure Nossent LN	Maria Koidu MK
Eva Puttkamer et Sophie Carly	Dan Nicolae DN
Peter Segers PS	Judith Ecker JE
Suzanne Patin (OIB)	Dijana Ror Boone DRB

Reminder on changes amongst the school directors:

Isabelle Verwilghen has been appointed acting Director of EEBIV until August 2022.

Sandra Maset Calpe has been appointed acting Deputy Director for Secondary until the end of the school year.

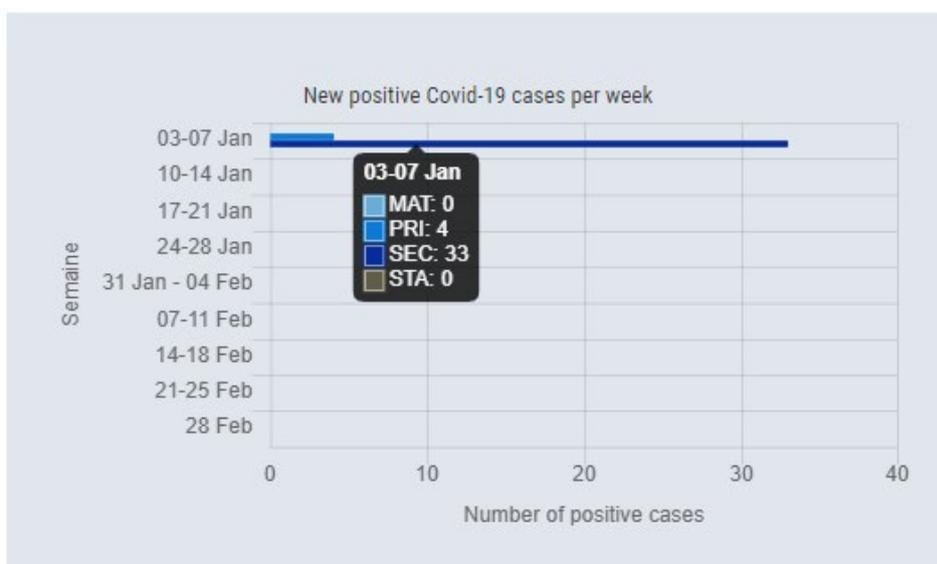
Daniella Mutes has been appointed acting Assistant Deputy Director until the end of the school year.

Meeting with 4 directors of Brussels schools for S7 to be in DL one week before the pre-BAC.

Update on cases

<https://eeb4.be/covid-figures/>

January – February



What is the timeframe to have CO₂ meters in all classrooms?

Peter Segers: call for tender launched at the end of last week.

One offer received and will be analyzed shortly.

Delivery time was an issue to get the offer. The assessment criteria provided that delivery in one week would give 40% higher assessment.

Judith Ecker is asking if there's a timeline possible.

Stock rupture of CO₂ meters in the Belgian market for the moment. So Peter Segers will not be able to give such information.

He reiterates that public procurement regulations have to be respected.

Maria Koidu asks if whether it can be assessed if they will be delivered in January, February or later. Peter Segers is unable to assess this.

Isabelle Verwilghen will inform Kristin Dijkstra as soon as they have more information about delivery time.

Dina Dragomirescu is asking whether it would be possible to purchase a limited number of CO₂ meters quicker, on another market, and place them in sensible areas like the gym, the changing rooms, chill out, etc.

Peter Segers states that this is not allowed.

Peter Segers states that the four portable CO₂ meters have been placed in different rooms and moved around no major issue rose in any of the rooms.

Maria Koidu is asking where the CO₂ meters are placed in the canteen as its placement is crucial.

Also, whether the CO₂ meters were tested in gym and changing rooms as discussed in last meeting and what was the result of such test.

Peter Segers is stating that the canteen personnel is the one who set up the meter and he's not sure where it's placed. He also states that the CO₂ meters were tested in the gym and the results were "good" (but does not clarify the level).

Kristin Dijkstra believes that the CO₂ meter in the canteen is placed in the middle of the room, near the staircase.

How will the school management handle the recommendation that "le mélange des classes dans les espaces intérieurs doit être évité au maximum"?

Isabelle Verwilghen has analyzed this in depth and it is impossible in our Secondary system not to mix classes, in order to respect the curriculum.

The school respects not mixing levels though.

Martin McGrath states that it's the same for Nursery and Primary.

However, swimming pools have modified their rules concerning the children who do not participate in swimming classes. Children have to stay in situ if they don't go swimming.

Those students, from different classes, will be assembled in one class that will be aired, the kids from different groups will be kept in separate clusters with 1.5m distance between the groups. The school cannot provide 3-4 different supervisors to not mix these kids.

How will the different quarantine rules according to vaccination status be managed (see below)?

Les changements les plus récents:

- Il n'y a AUCUNE exception à la quarantaine pour les enfants de moins de 12 ans qui sont des contacts à haut risque après une exposition domestique. Ils ne sont donc PAS autorisés à aller à l'école ou à la crèches (décision de la CIM modifiée le 8/01/2022).
- La durée de l'isolement pour une personne avec COVID-19 est réduite à 7 jours + 3 jours de mesures de protection (10/01/2022).
- Les contacts asymptomatiques à haut risque ne sont plus testés avec PCR. Les règles de quarantaine sont déterminées par le statut vaccinal avec une distinction entre 3 groupes (entièrement vacciné, partiellement vacciné ou non vacciné). Des règles spécifiques s'appliquent aux enfants de <12 ans (10/01/2022).
- Le seuil pour la procédure du "emergency brake" dans l'enseignement est à nouveau augmenté à 4 cas en 1 semaine dans une classe, et la classe n'est fermée que 5 jours (au lieu de 7) (10/01/2022).

Parents have noticed that the page "Management of cases and contacts" has been updated on the school's website.

However, there is nowhere stated that a negative test needs to be taken before returning to school.

Isabelle Verwilghen states that the collaboration of parents is crucial as everyone needs to respect the rules put in place by our government and the school doesn't have the resources to check the negative tests.

Isabelle Verwilghen confirms that no PCR negative test requested after a quarantine.

Eva Puttkamer: vaccination of students can be tricky due to the timelapse since the last vaccination. Sciensano usually makes a difference between adults and teenagers, but this can be complicated for students aged 18-19.

If there's no vaccination date or recovery certificate, a vaccinated student will be put in quarantine. Follow-up always needs to be made with the nurses and not via WhatsApp groups.

In two weeks, we will know more if it's worth reducing the quarantine to 7 days.

Dina Dragomirescu is asking whether our European school could go beyond the Belgian requirements and have a rule that everybody should have a negative PCR test when they come back.

Isabelle Verwilghen cannot reply positively to that request for the moment.

Pfizer has created a new test to detect Omicron better. This should arrive in February, but unclear if also to EU or only US market.

In order to close a class, there needs to be four PCR confirmed cases (students or teacher), symptomatic or not.

New information on the school's website Management of cases and contacts.

FR : <https://eeb4.be/fr/covid19-gestion-cas-contacts/>

EN : <https://eeb4.be/covid19-cases-contacts/>

Given the virulence of the Omicron variant - has the school worked out a minimum opening threshold in case there are so many staff absent?

Isabelle Verwilghen informs the parents that it's quite difficult to say.

No conclusion was taken as it needs to be decided on a case by case.

Twenty-five teachers were absent yesterday, Monday January 10, 2022.

Pedagogical continuity will be maintained, whether in situ or in DL.

Martin McGrath states that in Nursery/Primary, the situation is different as only a few teachers were absent yesterday.

On the school website, there are two ads for replacement teachers, however there is a general shortage of replacement teachers at the moment in Belgium.

Please advertise among family and friends that the school is urgently seeking qualified replacement teachers.

Can there be a line added to the school report which mentions the number of days taught in situ and online for each year group?

EN Section parents feel it is important keep track of how many days of the 180 school days are spent online.

Isabelle Verwilghen will have to ask the permission from the OSGES and come back to us.

Can teachers when they introduce a new subject etc when they are teaching online please record themselves and make the recording available on Teams?

SEN children really struggle to keep up and it would help if they could review what the teacher has taught.

Isabelle Verwilghen will ask for a line to be suggested to the teachers in the weekly Newsletter.

Teachers cannot be forced to turn on their camera.

Kristin Dijkstra suggests that teachers show their presentation and record their voice. There's no need to record themselves. In any event, best practices can be shared in order to provide guidance to teachers who may be uncertain. Ms Verwilghen will ask the IT Coordinator teacher to make a guide.

Reminder

En cas de confirmation d'un **cas positif** de Covid-19, celui-ci **doit être communiqué à l'École en utilisant exclusivement** l'adresse courriel dédiée :

LAE-COVID19-NOTIFICATION@eursc.eu

Next meeting

Tuesday, the 25th of January at 09:00.