



Minutes of COVID WG - November 16th, 2021

Participating

Manuel Bordoy MB	Kristin Dijkstra KD
Isabelle Verwilghen IV	Karim Kettani K2 (excused)
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 (excused)	Dan Nicolae DN
Peter Segers PS	Judith Ecker JE
Suzanne Patin (OIB)	Dijana Ror Boone DRB

MB informed that no nurses can participate, as two of them are absent and one is running the infirmary alone. There has been an interview to hire interim help yesterday, but it was not possible to find a replacement yet on such short notice.

Update on COVID cases

The parents inform the school that the numbers were not up to date on Monday morning. In at least one other EEB school, an email goes out each Friday afternoon to all the parents with the numbers of the week.

Justine Dauchot has not received the numbers from last week and Manuel Bordoy has only seen the numbers for the holidays, where there were about 20 cases.

The Central Office has been working on a tool. Manuel Bordoy sent a link to Justine Dauchot about the figures.

Caroline Hulsen a introduit les informations de la semaine dernière et a transmis les informations au bureau Central.

Du 8 au 12 novembre, il y a eu 11 cas parmi les élèves et 1 membre de l'administration.

Kristin Dijkstra demande quelle est la procédure à partir de maintenant : utiliser le document du Bureau Central ou le site de l'école ?

Manuel Bordoy précise que les chiffres seront toujours publiés sur le site. L'outil du Bureau Central ne permettrait peut-être pas de partage de fichier. Ceci reste à vérifier.

Diane Werherth suggests that the school should send the information to all parents as it is done in one other school.

But Manuel Bordoy does not want to bombard parents with emails, and would prefer it if parents could consult the school website for this information. The school website should therefore be updated weekly as previously decided.

Maria Koidu suggests that at least one email should be sent to all the parents informing them where all the COVID information can be found online. Manuel Bordoy agrees.

New rule on mask-wearing

- The Belgian Comité de Concertation has been moved up to Wednesday morning, so there might be further news on the 17th. Manuel Bordoy is not aware exactly what will be discussed for schools at Codeco. Maria Koidu proposes to share with school the scientific advice prepared by GEMS for the Codeco to be discussed on 17th.
Should there be any changes, the school will inform all parents by sending an email.
- There are reports of students wearing plastic face shields and no masks. Are plastic mask shields allowed? Shouldn't there be a rule on the quality of masks?
A couple of cases are allowed due to medical certificates. There is also one pupil who is not allowed to wear any kind of mask. This student has a very serious condition.
- It is also pointed out that some guards are not wearing face masks but shields and they are not wearing face masks when they are in their booth. Peter Segers will discuss this with the head of the team.

COVID's airborne transmission

Maria Koidu has prepared a PPT to show the Task Force.

Manuel Bordoy is thanking Maria Koidu for the presentation she sent to everyone.

This presentation will be sent out to the whole school community.

Open windows in classes during colder months

Parents are also complaining about kids being cold in class where the window is open, especially those sitting next to the window. What solutions do we have for the winter? Can we find a solution so that we don't have to choose between catching COVID or a cold?

In the communication that Justine will send to parents, Manuel Bordoy will remind the parents that children should wear warmer clothes because of the airing out of rooms.

Dina Dragomirescu is asking if the Central Office could reconsider HEPA filters so that children do not fall ill due to the cold in class.

Manuel Bordoy will raise the subject once again.

Judith Ecker did inform that some parents in the DE section would like HEPA filters be installed in classes. They plan some action there. They also ask if such filters could be bought privately.

Peter Segers doesn't think it's a good idea if certain sections start buying HEPA filters for their classes and not other ones.

The cost of electricity will rise with the use of HEPA filters. They can also be noisy.

Swimming lessons

Will swimming lessons stop? Incidences are high and primary students not vaccinated. Last year it was stopped in November.

Manuel Bordoy states that students under 12 years old are unvaccinated. But, as long as swimming pools are open, Primary students will continue to go.

Next meeting

Tuesday, the 30th of November at 09:00.