



Minutes of COVID WG - November 30th, 2021

Participating

Manuel Bordoy MB	Kristin Dijkstra KD
Isabelle Verwilghen IV	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	
Peter Segers PS	Judith Ecker JE
Suzanne Patin (OIB)	Dijana Ror Boone DRB

Manuel Bordoy takes the floor to inform the parents about the new circulaire that has been issued by FWB (Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles).

Only a couple of changes, notably the cancellation of the school trips before the Carnival holidays.

The P5 ski trip is affected and the school is working on finding solutions for this trip: one of them would be to postpone it maybe to the period after Carnival.

Second change: FWB has asked schools to install more CO₂ meters. At EEB4, the ones bought by the school are currently intended for the canteen and teachers' rooms.

The canteen has already received theirs.

A formal letter was sent to the Régie des Bâtiments for placement of the meters.

Peter Segers states the Régie des Bâtiments can no longer go against the placement of these.

Plan B: if the Régie des Bâtiments cannot install them, the school can act.

A call for tender will be launched. Peter Segers thinks this might cost €30,000 or €60,000 in order to cover all rooms in school.

In stores, there's already a shortage in stock for meters.

Judith Ecker has subsequent questions:

- How many meters did the school buy a year ago?
A: 4 were bought by the school: canteen and teachers' rooms
- Who will monitor readings?
A: Anyone can monitor them as it works with green/orange/red light. When the monitor is red, teachers (or anyone present) should ventilate the room.
- Protocol introduced for the CO₂ meters?
Mr Segers does not answer that question.

Kristin Dijkstra is asking if:

- the OSGES intends to equip the four Brussels schools?
- some of the schools in Brussels have already invested a number of school meters. If there's a shortage of meters, could there be some type of sharing between schools?

Manuel Bordoy answers that only one European school in Brussels has already installed CO₂ meters because they have classrooms where they can't open the windows.

Class or school closure

What would trigger a class or a school closure in the context of EEB4?

Class: a class will be closed as soon as 3 cases in a class, according to the new FWB circulaire.

School: Manuel Bordoy states that the schools will follow the regulations from FWB.

A school closure will only occur if there's a big contamination in different levels and a big number of the population is positive or not enough staff - this was the reason for EEB1 to close the Primary.

In the past weeks, there have been a number of absent teachers but so far the school has managed.

Only four teachers are absent today, it's a good day.

Nothing in the trends indicates that there will be a lack of teachers.

Kristin Dijkstra is thanking Justine Dauchot for the numbers available on the website.

Justine is writing in the chat that they are working on editing the rules. It will be shared with the school community once it's ready.

Kristin Dijkstra is wondering how the 3-cases in classes will work out for Secondary.

Rule has to be confirmed by the Ministère de l'Enseignement of the FWB, and EEB4 will follow this rule.

School will inform procedure for staff members for the booster shot.

The EEB4 Comité des Elèves had a minute of silence for COVID victims. This minute of silence followed by the "Ode an die Freude" by Beethoven. Some parents complained about this event in honor of the Covid victims.

Distribution of mandatory CO₂ meters

See introduction.

Class groups

Class groups must be maintained - how can this be respected in our school context?

We cannot change the way we organize the classes since the class groups are mixed especially in Secondary classes but also in Primary for L2 or European Hours.

Whether 3 cases are in a "core" group or mixed group, the classes will be closed.

Judith Ecker is asking if the priority is to maintain presence schooling.

Shouldn't we do more in order to make it safe? To allow them to do so, could the Secondary students skip sports classes indoors - or changing rooms?

Isabelle Verwilghen states that students are asked to keep a distance in changing rooms and remove their mask as little as possible.

It is important to keep sports lessons for the well-being of the students.

It is controlled regularly and supervisors are outside of each door before sports classes to ensure things go smoothly.

Dina Dragomirescu: the changing rooms are particularly dangerous places because they have no windows and it is very difficult to keep the mask on and fitted when changing for sports. Can a CO₂ meter be placed in the changing rooms? A CO₂ meter can be read from a distance, from an office, on the smartphone.

If the values showed that the CO₂ concentration is too high there, could the school think of skipping the changing rooms and reverting to lighter sports that do not necessarily imply changing?

Isabelle Verwilghen will check with Peter Segers to see if there's enough to be placed in changing rooms. If not, they will take one from the teachers' room and put at least in one in the changing room as pilot to see how the levels actually are.

Maria Koidu: Primary kids have no masks and CO₂ levels will get high with rooms where there are no windows.

Since the virus is airborne, it could contaminate more than one class.

Peter Segers states that there's a good ventilation system in the changing rooms.

Automatic reply from the functional mailbox

For positive cases reported over the weekend, would it be possible to prepare an automatic email reply? Even a copy/paste of the official school regulations would give parents the feeling that the message has been received.

According to Peter Segers, the message is working well.

One functional mailbox for COVID, parents needs to use this one.

Eva Puttkamer confirms that there's an outgoing email once there's a message coming in.

Distance Learning before Christmas

Is the school considering a period of distance learning before the Christmas break?
Manuel Bordoy is very clear about this: No, not before or after the Christmas break.
He is stating that Uccle is closing Primary for 10 days due to high numbers in all class and lack of staff.

What would EEB4 criteria to do that as well?

Judith Ecker: Some DE parents are worried about the high level in the society and in school and those in particular when children are not wearing masks because of their age - and /or cannot be vaccinated.

Many families plan on visiting family members abroad and fear for elderly relatives. They do not want to bring them the SarsCov2 virus.

Martin McGrath is stating that the school is following rules of the FWB. He does take note of the worries of parents.

Maria Koidu is explaining that our school is not working as most schools in FWB, we mix groups from P1 onwards and from S1 on, students have many bubbles.

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 14th of December at 09:00.