

Minutes of COVID WG - January 25th, 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
Daniela Mutes (DM)	Alessandra Antonini

1. Update on cases

Only 20 absent teachers today and 27 yesterday.

Situation is a little better in Secondary school.

In Secondary 5 classes are closed and 5 classes are closed in Primary.

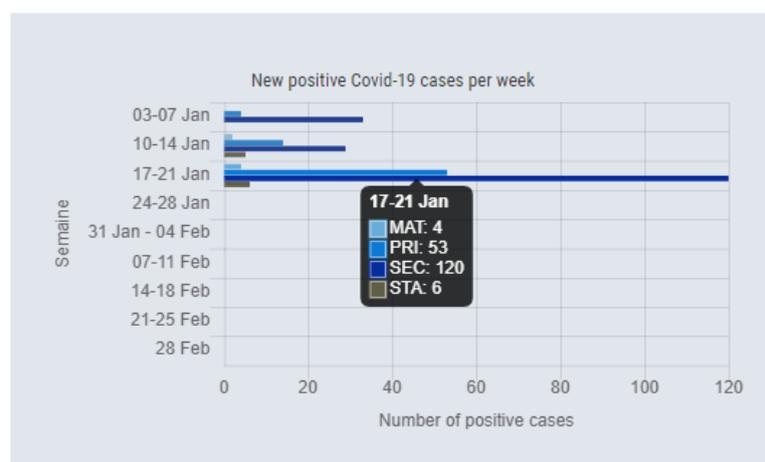
Some parents are requesting that the visualisation of the data on the school website be improved to enhance the understanding of data at a glance

Isabelle Verwilghen states that it's complicated to make a calculation on a daily basis due to students that are in still in quarantine. The school can take stock of figures at the end of the week.

But Justine Dauchot feels she can do it and will add a marker on each number from the previous week in order to show the difference between two weeks.

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

January – February



2. If now Belgium has changed its guidelines on automatic secondary closure at 4 cases, who determines an exceptional situation in the European Schools? The regional hygiene inspector? Someone else? COCOM?

In Primary, it's clear... it's 4 cases.

For Secondary, we keep in mind the number 4 but if there are large groups, another figure (25%) could be taken into account when groups are large.

There is no strict rule for Secondary classes.

In some other EEB schools, have decided to close the class when there are 4 cases.

3. Absence des professeurs - Occupation des enfants autre que chill-out ? Would it be possible to inform families when a teacher is absent all week or several days and not to discover that on a daily basis ?

Yesterday, the weather was nice and the students were able to play outside in the fresh air.

If the school knows in advance that teachers will be absent for the 1st and 2nd period, an email will be sent to parents.

This is a new offer from the school due to the COVID circumstances.

Judith Ecker is asking if it's accurate that students cannot leave school before 11AM.

Could the school revise this situation if the students find out on the same day that their teacher is absent for the first two hours?

Internal rules state that as soon as a student passes the gates, he's under the school's responsibility. That is a rule that will not change as it's a matter of insurance.

But a communication of absent teachers for the 1st two periods will be sent out as soon as possible to the parents.

Isabelle Verwilghen believes it's best to send a message on a daily basis, and not on a weekly one as the situation changes constantly.

An email will be sent daily to the parents when needed.

4. Exception for online classes for students who are absent from school but not in quarantine. Distance Learning should be available to PCR positive but asymptomatic, long covid, etc

This will be discussed with the CDP.

It is quite difficult for the teachers to give class to half of students in situ and half online.

The teachers will take "Les présences" and sometimes these students might not be well enough to follow the class and then they will be marked as absent.

Dina Dragomirescu believes that it's better for a student to get connected when he feels fine and at least follow a few classes instead of no class at all.

She has a suggestion for the Task Force: students could be responsible of one another and inform the "at home" student to get connected.

Isabelle Verwilghen reminds the parents that hybrid teaching is only offered because of COVID related issues when they are in quarantine... and not for any other illness. Thus the school will not offer students who are not officially in COVID quarantine a possibility to use hybrid teaching.

There cannot be "à la carte" solutions for all students' needs. Teachers need to be protected.

EEBIV is the only school that offers this hybrid teaching.

Sandra Maset Calpe also thinks that Dina Dragomirescu's idea (to responsabilize a student) is good and will talk it through with the teachers.

5. CO₂ meters: where will they be installed? And what will be the levels and corresponding actions prescribed to teachers/personnel?

The COVID WG received an email from Mr Peter Segers on Monday afternoon stating that the CO₂ meters arrived last Friday.

With the blackout that occurred during the day, emails were down and the school could not inform the COVID WG that day.

Peter Segers states that the CO₂ meters will be Installed this week on the desk of the teacher where there is the electricity close due to the computer outlet. A document explaining the protocol has been prepared with Ms Caroline Hulsen, the school's Security Officer, which will be circulated to staff this week as well.

The norm is 900PPM, and when it reaches above it, teachers need to start ventilating more in the class (windows and doors).

If it stays above 1000 PPM, then students needs to be removed out of the classroom until the level is back.

Technicians will receive this info from teachers to see if anything can be done to improve the situation.

6. Has the school started to prepare for potentially large number of pupils with Long Covid, who may need special educational support and may have problems fulfilling the 90% attendance obligation? 10% of those infected, in particularly with mild or asymptomatic infections are said to develop a form of Long Covid

This rule is always applied at the discretion of the Director.

No illness has ever jeopardized a student's year.

Isabelle Verwilghen guarantees all decisions will be taken in the best interest of the student.

7. Rotation survey conducted by APEEE¹

Over the weekend, the parent WG learned that some sections were running surveys to get an idea of parents' thoughts on in situ vs rotation or full DL within the current pandemic context. We decided that although it was last minute and not perfect, it would be preferable to try to survey the entire Secondary parent population and so Section Representatives were asked to share the information with their class reps to this effect on Sunday.

While the turnaround time for the survey was extremely short, there were still a very high number of responses. The survey stated clearly that it was for information purposes only and that the APEEE does not have the decision-making power for this matter.

Isabelle Verwilghen is showing the Task Force the results of the survey concerning the rotation system. Students, teachers and parents have been consulted about a possible rotation system.

Complicated to take a decision as opinions diverge from all stakeholders and no clear opinion is sticking out.

Decisions to relax the measures will change in Belgium in the next few days.

Isabelle Verwilghen, after consulting with OSGES, has decided to continue with in situ teaching as long as possible.

¹ Please see full school report from EEBIV in Annex

Dina Dragomirescu feels it's a pity that EEB4 made the decision to stay in situ. Very often it was invoked that the 4 schools act jointly, which is now not the case as the other schools went on rotation and we don't, despite a high number of cases.

She also feels that we are at a crossroads that we will regret. By this decision even more children, parents and grandparents will get sick, some will get Long COVID or other consequences we don't know yet, because this virus keeps surprising us.

When choosing between making more people sick or less people sick, we should always choose the latter.

Her position is supported by Alessandra Antonini, Judith Ecker and Stephanie Buus.

Isabelle Verwilghen understands and is also concerned... but we are not the specialists and we rely on the recommendation of the Belgian authorities.

This is also one of the reasons that justifies the decision to stay in situ.

Judith Ecker is asking if the school would be willing to accept HEPA filters from parents.

Would school be prepared to operate those?

Peter Segers states that the school already has discussed this point during earlier meetings.

The school already has a high quality ventilation system in place.

No legal obligation for the schools in Belgium for the moment to add those, so EEBIV will not be agreeing to add HEPA filters.

Also, it wouldn't be fair because some classes would be better off than others.

Isabelle Verwilghen results of CO₂ Meters will be given to parents in the next few weeks

Dan Nicolae states only HEPA filter is fine and it doesn't need to be an expensive filter.

CO₂ meters are measuring the CO₂ and not the quality of the air. And filters might be beneficial health-wise as long as you breathe better air.

Diane Werhert wishes to end on a very sad note as this is Kristin Dijkstra's last meeting with us.

She thanks Kristin for the wonderful work she's done over the years as APEEE's president and especially for this group.

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 8th of February at 09:00.



EEBIV – 1st REPORT – 10 to 24 January 2022

For Mr Beckmann

By Isabelle Verwilghen

ABSENCES on 24 January 2022

– Teachers

- Nursery/Primary : 12 out of 96 12,5 %
- Secondary : 28 out of 187 14 %

– Assistants

- Nursery/Primary : 11 out of 34 32 %
- Secondary : 1 out of 9 11 %

NEW COVID CASES between 21 and 24 January 2022

– Pupils/students

- Nursery/Primary 41 out of 1189 (57 cases last week)
- Secondary 62 out of 1913 (124 cases last week)

– Classes closed

- Nursery/Primary : 2 out of 60 (3 classes last weeks)
- Secondary : 4 out of 81 (3 classes last weeks)

ONLINE or IN SITU TEACHING – consultation of the different stakeholders:

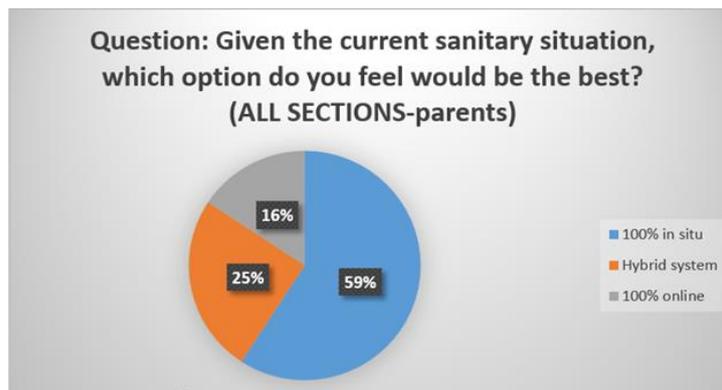
- Parents : 59 % in favor of in situ teaching – participation rate difficult to calculate
- Students : 64 % in favor of online teaching – participation rate to the survey : 38%
- Teachers :
 - Nursery / Primary : 63% in favor of in situ teaching – participation rate to the survey : 67,7 %
 - Secondary : 61 % in favor of online – participation rate to the survey : 66,7 %

Additional information from :

- Nurses : very complicated situation to manage
- Staff in charge of the replacements: an additional absent teacher in Primary will be problematic to replace; in the secondary school, students remained outside today in order to partially empty the study halls.

DETAILS of the SURVEYS

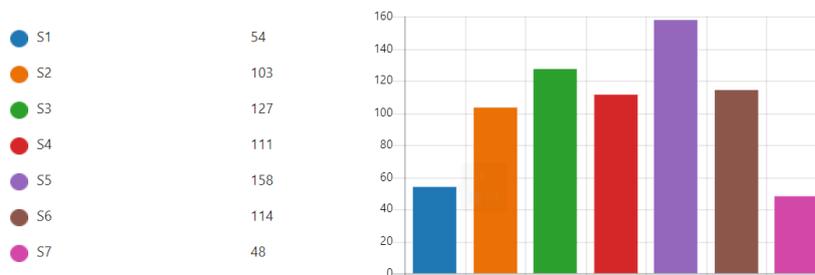
- **Parents** : survey launched by the APEEE – 1117 parents replied.



- **Students** : survey launched by the CdE – 735 out of 1913 students (38 %) replied :

1. Which year are you in? Tu es en quelle année?

[More Details](#)



2. Given the current sanitary situation, which option do you feel would be best?/ Avec la situation sanitaire actuelle, quelle option penses tu être la meilleure?

[More Details](#)

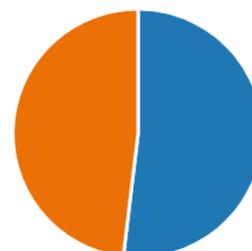
100% in situ/ en présentielle	260
Hybrid system/ système de ro...	292
100% online/ en ligne	183



3. If you voted for hybrid, which one would you prefer?/ Si tu as voté pour un système de rotation, lequel préférerais tu?

[More Details](#)

one day at school, one day at ...	151
one week at school, one week...	140



– Teachers

- Nursery/Primary – 65 out of 96 teachers (67,7%) replied:

41 for in-situ teaching – arguments: importance of social interactions for young pupils, non-availability of the parents, distance learning fatigue.

20 for online teaching- arguments: pupils' absenteeism rate – protection of teachers' health – difficulties to replace teachers.

4 don't express their preference but would accept two weeks online and then in situ.

- Secondary – 125 out of 187 teachers (66,7 %) replied :

1. As of Wednesday 26th would you like to teach / A partir du mercredi 26 voulez-vous

- ne rien changer / keeping all t... 49
- rotation jour par jour / day-by... 18
- rotation par semaine (lundi au... 46
- rotation par semaine (mercred... 12

