



BASISSCHOOL
De Bij



Dear parents

In recent days, many consultation moments have taken place at the Flemish and Federal level regarding the corona epidemic and education.

Below you can find a summary of the **most important** measures that were taken. The list contains items imposed by the government, the CLB, the crisis cell of our School Group and / or school-specific decisions.

I also reiterate our priority goals with these measures:

- Health first! Provide a safe learning and working environment for the children and staff at the school.
- Keep the virus out of the school walls for as long as possible so that we can keep the school and classes open. We want to be able to offer the maximum in education.

We therefore ask you to strictly observe the measures. These will continue to apply until the Ministry of Education announces that the situation is safe enough to switch to another phase and / or it is possible to relax measures.

Kind regards

Stanny De Block

Director GO! Primary school De Bij

UPDATE CORONA EDUCATION

No cooling-off period during break

the week before the springDuring the week before the spring break - from 8 to 12 February - there will be in primary education **no** cooling-off period. The measure taken only applies to secondary education. Our school (and day care) will therefore remain open.

Extension of home isolation duration to 10 days

The duration of home isolation for confirmed COVID cases in home isolation is extended from 7 to **10 days** (including at least 3 days fever-free and improvement of respiratory symptoms).

Change risk classification of contacts in elementary school

Because of the increased infectivity (the new coronavirus variant) in all age groups are children in primary school in the classroom or the cafeteria next to a person who were tested positive, now as **high risk contact** .

Additional Information:

- If a primary school child is a confirmed case of COVID-19, the children sitting next to it (in class, daycare, or lunch hour) are at high risk contact. The other children in the class as well as the teacher are considered low risk contacts.
- If the children do not have a fixed place, or if the resources of the CLB do not allow for an extensive contact investigation, all contacts in the classroom / shelter are considered high-risk contacts.



- If the teacher is a confirmed COVID-19 case, all children in the class are considered low risk contact persons unless the teacher has not maintained a minimum distance of 1.5 m for more than 15 minutes. This will be revealed by the contact investigation.
- Children are allowed to continue to school after low-risk contact (compulsory education) but are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities (hobbies, academy, sports ...) for 14 days.
- If there is more than one case in a class (e.g. student + student, or student + teacher) and it is suspected that infections have occurred within the class (i.e. there is a link between the cases in the same class), the quarantined entire class.

Face mask requirement in the 5th and 6th grade to contagion

from Monday, January 25th bear all students in 5th and 6th grade elementary school as a precaution a mask once a pupil or teacher is infected and needs in isolation / quarantine.

In concrete terms, these pupils are obliged to wear a mouth mask:

- throughout the entire school - in the classroom, on the playground and in after-school care;
- for a period of 14 days after the last contact with the student or staff member concerned;
- in the entire year of the student or staff member who has to be quarantined / isolated (eg in case of an infection in L5A, the students in L5B must also wear a mouth mask).

In other cases, too, the CLB may propose that pupils in the fifth and sixth grade of primary education wear a mouth mask. The school always provides a basic stock of medical mouth masks if it appears that rapid action within a class is necessary.

Bringing a mouth mask:

In recent days there has been discussion about the mandatory use of a mouth mask in the third degree. From our crisis cell, things are currently going **strong recommended** to wear a mouth mask at times when a class group is together.

As a school, we do not yet make any obligations because the situation is currently under control. As soon as we determine that this is necessary, we will notify you. You are of course always free to let your child wear a mouth mask throughout the day - as several students are doing now.

In the context of prevention and safety, we do ask all parents of 5th and 6th grade to their child on Monday 01/02/2021 a mask (individually wrapped) with display in the satchel. This way, action can be taken quickly if necessary. In addition, the class teachers will soon also schedule a lesson on the correct use of a mouth mask, etc.



Increased vigilance for disease symptoms

We want to continue to focus on health and ensure a safe learning and working environment for the children and staff members at the school. In addition, we want to do as much as possible to avoid people coming to school sick, spreading the virus and then others taking it home.

So there remains an increased vigilance for disease symptoms of the coronavirus.

These symptoms are: excessive coughing, shortness of breath, fatigue, stuffy nose, sore throat, loss of smell and taste, diarrhea,

If your child is present at school with 1 (or) more of the above complaints, we will contact you by telephone. If your child has such symptoms at the start of the school day, we ask that you keep him / her at home and consult a doctor if necessary.

Introduction of rapid tests corona in education

Flemish education will have its own testing strategy and is based on two tracks:

- As soon as a possible contamination is reported within the school walls, a rapid test will be offered to all high-risk contacts.
- Mobile test teams are called in if a cluster is suspected.

This new test strategy requires a large organization of various services and resources. This strategy is currently being rolled out. The most up-to-date information about this is available on Education Flanders:

<https://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/sneltesten-corona>

