

Liedekerke, Sunday 9/01/2022



**Subject: corona measures education from Monday 10/01/2022**

Dear parent(s)

First of all, on behalf of the entire school team, I wish you all the best for the new year. Happiness in big and small things but above all lots of love, joy and good health.

Last Wednesday, the Flemish and Federal government took new measures or extended/adjusted existing measures. Below you can find an overview of all guidelines.

These measures apply until the spring break. It will definitely not be an easy period for any sector. I hope together with you that the reports about the less sickening variant Omikron and a possible turning point in February are correct and that we can then go back to a somewhat normal society.

Thank you in advance for following the measures carefully.

If you have any questions, you can always contact us via Smartschool, e-mail ([direction@debij.be](mailto:direction@debij.be)) or by telephone (053/46.33.00).

Best regards  
Stanny De Block  
Director GO! Elemental In

**summary guidelines on Monday 10/01/2022**

- **mouth mask requirement from the age of 6 years is preserved:**
  - This is from the 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Children aged 6 years who in the three<sup>kindergarten</sup> are follow the rules in the nursery and do not need to do this.
  - **We ask all parents to give their child a mouth mask.**
  - If the students are sitting at their couch in class, there is sufficient distance and ventilation (good CO2 value), the mask can be removed.
  - The mouth masks can be removed outside if students can avoid intense physical contact.
  - The mask may be removed during sports activities (e.g. the PE lesson), unless the student wishes to keep it on.

By extending this measure, classmates can be regarded as low-risk contacts if they report an infected student if they do not show any symptoms. Toddlers are automatically considered low-risk contact. The quarantine strategy for the next point applies to both groups.



- **Adjustment of quarantine strategy for students.**

- When there are 4 infections in one class or when 25% of the class is infected within a certain period, the class is immediately quarantined for 5 days. The CLB (Center for Pupil Guidance) will always conduct a contact investigation and check whether there is a cluster infection at school. This decision is made by the CLB doctor.

- **High-risk contacts outside the classroom:**

- When a child is quarantined because there is one or more infections within the family (or the family circle), the student concerned is **NOT allowed** to go to school and he / she must go into quarantine.
- When a child has had high-risk contact in, for example, a sports club or youth association, the student should also be quarantined, but he/she **CAN** go to school **if there are no symptoms** (sore throat, cough, runny nose, ....).

- **Extracurricular activities/trips will continue.**

- Sports and swimming activities and all other one-day excursions are permitted in accordance with the applicable rules in society. These take place at our school.

- **Class groups are separated as much as possible.**

Class-breaking work is again carried out between the same grade (eg L1A and L1B). They are considered a class group. In this way, we want to continue to pursue our pedagogical vision and operation in function of the students' learning. Other matters that involve working between different grades are still deleted in order to avoid as much mixing as possible.

- **Increased vigilance for symptoms of illness**

- The Omnikron variant currently accounts for 80% of infections and is difficult to distinguish from other cold viruses. However, we want to ensure that the school is as safe as possible a safe learning and working environment for the children and staff.
- If your child has the following complaints, we will contact you by telephone to collect him/her from school. If your child has such symptoms at the start of the school day, we ask that you keep him/her at home and, if necessary, a doctor **consultor perform a self-test**.
  - Common Omnikron symptoms include:
    - ⇒ Sore throat
    - ⇒ Nasal congestion
    - ⇒ Dry cough
    - ⇒ Body aches, especially back and neck pain
    - ⇒ Increase or fever
    - ⇒ Headache
    - ⇒ Tiredness and drowsiness
    - ⇒ Nausea and diarrhea
  - Common Omnikron symptoms include:
    - ⇒ Loss of smell and taste
    - ⇒ Shortness of breath



- **Pupils still get a permanent place.** Of course we still want to give the class group the opportunity to work in a differentiated way. The teacher maintains a class arrangement when the students work in groups within the class.
- **Presence of third parties/externals at school is strictly limited** and only allowed when they are necessary to achieve the curriculum goals or to meet the specific care of certain children.
- **Mouth mask for parents, staff, ...**
  - o Staff members of all grades in primary education also wear a mouth mask in class when they can't keep their distance, so also when they walk around. This is highly recommended for pre-school teachers.
  - o Everyone who walks on the school domain is **obliged** to wear a mouth mask (also in open air). We also ask that you always apply the principle of social distancing and that you always keep a sufficient distance (at least 1.5 meters) when waiting for your child. **So you can still wait at the buildings where your child is.**
  - o The buildings remain accessible only when necessary. When you have an appointment with a staff member or you visit the secretariat, a mouth mask is also mandatory for both parents and staff.
- **We continue to apply regular hand hygiene and/or disinfection** to prevent virus spread (after playtime, before eating...).
- **Before and after school care remains open, but only for parents who really need it** for work or a specific situation. In case of doubt, an employer's certificate can be requested.
  - o The toddlers will continue to have the K0/1 block as a shelter.
  - o Primary school care continues in the refectory. There the students per class / bubble sit together at a table **OR** everyone separately with sufficient distance from each other. The choice depends on the moment and numbers and is made by the reception staff.
- **Warm meals are preserved.** However, the children eat their hot food per class / bubble at a table **OR** separately with sufficient distance from each other. The children who eat sandwiches still do this as usual in the classroom with the teacher.
- **Ventilating and ventilating remains very important** to stop the coronavirus (and other viruses). Our classrooms and other areas all already have a CO2 meter. When we determine that the threshold value has been exceeded and the air quality is no longer good, the teacher will ventilate extra or leave the classroom if necessary.
- **Distanceduring quarantine:**
  - o learningif your child is absent due to quarantine/isolation, an internal review will be carried out to determine whether distance learning can be started and in what form this will take place. This is discussed with the parents. If it is not possible to organize this (eg due to too many absentees at school), we will also inform the parents involved.



- **COVID vaccination for children from 1st to 6th grade:**
  - The government and vaccination centers in various regions are rolling out 2 vaccination moments for 5-12 year olds at school.
  - For the primary care zone AMALO (Asse, Merchtem, Affligem, Liedekerke and Opwijk) where our school is located, will be until further notice **no** vaccination moment organized at the schools. Parents will receive an invitation via the center and have the free choice to visit a vaccination center with their child for vaccination. If this strategy changes, we will certainly inform you in good time.
  
- **Adjusted testing and quarantine policy:**
  - From Monday 10 January, new rules regarding testing and quarantine will apply in our country. VRT Nieuws has made a handy overview and step-by-step plan when exactly you should be tested and how long the quarantine or isolation period is.
  - All info can be found at:  
<https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2022/01/04/stappenplan-test-en-quarantinebeleid/>.