

# NEWSLETTER

Belgian Pediatric COVID-19 Task Force

**22/03/2020**

To all Belgian Pediatricians

As more and more information is coming from China and Italy that very few children will have serious problems needing hospitalisation, that the direct burden of COVID19 in children is minimal and that there are almost no deaths in children, we urge you all to adopt the following measures, which should be adapted locally:

1. First protect yourself – according to local protocol - in every situation.
2. Parents of children will put you more at risk than the child itself. It has been observed in Italy and China (although not published yet) that children are usually infected via their close relatives (parents).
3. There is a probability that you will have time left as the global pediatric activity might drop sharply.
4. Assure continued care for non-infected children (vaccination, follow-up chronic diseases and socially deprived children, psychological support, general preventive medicine) in a separate circuit.
5. Organise a separate COVID patient flow (expected to have a low burden) from the non-COVID circuit (ambulatory and inpatient).
6. Afterwards consider dispatching members of your staff, trainees, nurses to help the adult departments who might need help. For those who work in private practices, contact your local GP organisation and see how you can help them.

## FAQ:

FR:

[https://epidemiologie.wiv-isp.be/ID/Documents/Covid19/COVID-19\\_FAQ\\_paeds\\_FR.pdf](https://epidemiologie.wiv-isp.be/ID/Documents/Covid19/COVID-19_FAQ_paeds_FR.pdf)

NL:

[https://epidemiologie.wiv-isp.be/ID/Documents/Covid19/COVID-19\\_FAQ\\_paeds\\_NL.pdf](https://epidemiologie.wiv-isp.be/ID/Documents/Covid19/COVID-19_FAQ_paeds_NL.pdf)

New questions welcome on [covidpediatrie@gmail.com](mailto:covidpediatrie@gmail.com)



**Coordinator and VBS/GBS:**

Tyl Jonckheer

**Coordination scientific committee:**

Dimitri Van der Linden (FR), Daan Van Brusselen (NL)

**Members of the scientific committee:**

Tine Boiy, Marc Hainaut, Petra Schelstraete, Julie Frère, Koen Vanden Driessche, Stefaan Van Lierde, Koen Vanden Driessche, Anne Tilmanne, François Vermeulen, Dimitri Van der Linden, Daan Van Brusselen

**Belgian Academy of Pediatrics:**

Georges Casimir

**SBP/BVK:**

Marc Raes

**VVK:**

Ann Bael

**GBPF:**

Marianne Michel

**European Academy of Pediatrics:**

Ann De Guchtenaere

**Universities:**

Stephane Moniotte, Sabine Van Daele, Gunar Buyse, Pierre Smeesters, Marie-Christine Seghaye, Yvan Vandenplas, Stijn Verhulst.

**Neonatologists:**

Luc Cornette

**Pediatric Intensivists:**

Els Duval

**Observers:**

Kind en Gezin: Bart Van Overmeire

ONE: Paloma Carillo

Sciensano: Laura Cornelissen

Flemish society pediatric of nurses: Jeroen Verlinden

French speaking society pediatric nurses: Jordaan Pollet

Belgian Pediatric Residents Association: Levi Hoste, Siel Daelemans

**Spokesperson NL:** Petra Schelstraete**Spokesperson FR:** Dimitri Van der Linden**Secretaries (VBS/GBS):** Fanny Van Damme, Raf De Naeyer, Aurélie FrançoisAcadémie belge de Pédiatrie *s.d.f.*Belgische Academie voor Kindergeneeskunde *f.v.*

Av. de la Couronne, 20, 1050 Bruxelles – Kroonlaan, 20, 1050 Brussel – Tel: 02-649.21.47

