

NEWSLETTER

Belgian Paediatric COVID-19 Task Force

14/10/2020

Disclaimer:

The Belgian Paediatric COVID-19 Task Force critically reviews the most recent scientific literature. Advices and guidelines reflect the state of the art at a particular time. They can be updated based on new developments. Implementation is at your own responsibility.

- The quarantine period has been reduced to 7 days, also for children <6 years.**
 Children <6 who have a positive household contact **still don't need to be tested, but they remain in quarantine with their family, until 7 days after the last high risk contact** (i.e. 14 days after onset of symptoms - or positive test, if asymptomatic - of the household contact, unless the child is isolated from the infected parent/sibling). If there is a cluster in a collectivity, testing can however be indicated. More info can be found here [in Dutch](#) and [in French](#). The [CLB algorithm](#) has been adapted to the new quarantine period and is very clear! There is also an adapted [ONE procedure](#) and [PSE procedure](#).
- The number of daycare centres/kindergartens and classes that had to close is low.**
 Only 0,9% of school age children were put in quarantine in the last week of September (60% of them in secondary schools). The current Sciensano policy is therefore still that **daycare centres and kindergartens DO NOT HAVE TO BE CLOSED** unless the caregiver/teacher is positive or 2 children in the same bubble are positive. **ALL contacts (children/teacher) of a positive child/teacher in primary schools remain 'low risk'** and do not have to be tested. In secondary schools the same rules as for adults apply, which can be found here [in Dutch](#) and [in French](#).
- What is the Task Force's position on masks and ventilation in schools?**
 The Task Force is still working on the 'lines of defense' against COVID-19 in classrooms, including the use of masks and appropriate ventilation, together with the Ministry of Education. More information on ventilation in schools can already be found (in NL) in this [webinar](#). In summary, opening opposite windows (creating air flow through the classroom) and/or opening a high and a low window (chimney effect) at the same time works best. Opening the door of the class also helps, but then you also have to open an outside door of the building or a window in the class, in order to create air flow. Of course this ventilation advice is also applicable outside of the school context.



- **What about afterschool activities?**

Recently, stricter rules were announced by the ministers of sports and youth work, which are more in line with the general rules at school and in the wider society. The announced 'barometer' also aims to streamline the rules in the various domains of society. More information will be spread soon by the respective cabinets.

- **What about regular care, now that COVID-19 cases are rising rapidly?**

The Task Force recommends to continue all regular care (including vaccination) for children – taking into account local hospital procedures – as much as possible, in order to avoid that children with chronic conditions lack important care.

- **All info about children is still combined in one topic on the Sciensano-website.**

You can find all procedures in [Dutch](#) and in [French](#).

- **FAQs on COVID-19 and children.**

New FAQs on the duration of quarantine and 'high flow nasal oxygen' in COVID-times are available. All FAQs can still be found here: [Dutch](#) and [French](#).

New questions are still welcome on covidpediatrie@gmail.com

