Lux2 Health & Safety Meeting - 20/10/2021

Summary

Key topics in this summary

- Transparency with parents
- School COVID statistics
- Testing in classes
- Classroom safety
- Student trips
- Ski trip to Switzerland
- New bus access road to the School

APEEEL2 representatives present at the meeting

Didier HOAREAU, Chris KNIGHT and Roberta ZANI

Parents wishing to ask questions can write directly to our *APEEEL2 Health & Safety Committee* members on **healthandsafety@apeeel2.lu**

Important: please note that only a small amount of the questions raised by the parents could be discussed. Our H&S Committee will endeavour to follow up and try getting answers for all raised issues.

Topics discussed during the meeting

Communications

APEEEL2 representatives have requested more communications with the School and more transparency with parents about Health and Safety issues. The School Management confirmed its intention to meet parents weekly to discuss Covid-related issues and will organise two more Health and Safety meetings during this school year. The School also said it wanted to communicate more with parents and in a clearer, more efficient manner. APEEEL2 informed the School during this meeting that it will start sharing short meeting reports with parents when necessary. APEEEL2 is welcoming this approach from the School and will be happy to collaborate to improve communication with parents.

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COVID rules in school

The School Health & Safety Officer explained that the School COVID rules follow the state public school's rules. The School does not know who is or is not vaccinated. APEEEL2 asked the School to provide more information on the different scenarios available when positive cases are identified in the School.

COVID quick tests

Parents have asked the School to provide certificates after COVID testing, as is the case in Luxembourgish schools. Parents in Primary have also said that they don't like the fact that consent forms for testing must be provided in paper format every week. They feel this is a waste of paper and time. The School agreed to quickly introduce an electronic version of the consent form but cannot provide any certificate following the tests carried out at school, as there is no plan to change the current method of testing.

Lack of classroom ventilation

Many of the teachers' windows do not open to allow ventilation. Ventilation of classrooms is important for pupils' health during the Covid pandemic. The School agreed that the automated system to open and close windows is not working properly and confirmed it is working hard to fix this issue as a priority. However, it could not confirm when the problem would be solved.

Teachers and COVID

Currently, teachers are not informed by the School nor the state when there is a positive Covid case in their class. It was discussed during the meeting that it could be a good idea for parents to be proactive on this and inform all the teachers if their child tested positive. Otherwise, teachers will not be informed by anyone since teachers are not considered close contacts by the Luxembourg authorities. Teachers said they do not agree with the fact that they are not considered as close contacts, and they feel exposed and unsafe.

Lack of COVID statistics

The School Health and Safety Officer explained that the School has not published its statistics on testing and Covid cases due to a change of staff, and agreed to resume the publication soon, probably just before the Toussaint break. APEEEL2 insisted FAQ and statistics must be published, so parents can trust all procedures and works put in place by the School.

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Pupils School trips

NOTE: Since this meeting took place on 20/10, please note that the Zinal trip has been cancelled, and all parents concerned were notified on 28/10/21.

The decision about the School trip to Zinal in Switzerland for P5 is still pending. Parents will be informed asap about the final decision. The School is still researching if other countries' borders will remain open, and if the company handling the trip can still organise it in a safe environment. The School wishes to decide on this as soon as possible and give inform the parents concerned immediately before the break. As with all other School trips, this will depend on the sanitary situation, to be reassessed later. For the time being, it is confirmed that there will be no School trips during the first semester.

New road for School buses

There will be some important changes to the way buses will come to school. Luxembourg authorities are finally ready to change the roads coming to school. This project has been in the works for many years. The work will start at the end of this school year.

The aim is to make it easier for buses to bring pupils to school.

Ebikes

The School will work with the Mamer commune to install an ebike station at the school. This will allow members of our school community to drop off and pick up ebikes. The School is trying to encourage as many people as possible to use bicycles to get to school.

Safety near the school

The School is working with the Police and the communes to improve safety around the school and make sure, for example, that disabled people always have a place to park. The School is aware about the fact that parking places for disabled people are often occupied by healthy people and will work together with the Police to tackle this issue.

Dirty toilets

The School claimed toilets are clean and that anyone finding a dirty toilet should report it straight away to the School Management. This should follow the same approach as for other issues, such as a dirty pool or pupils' injuries / bullying: the School asked parents to report immediately any issues needing to be solved, as this would make investigating and dealing with problems much easier.

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Questions answered after the Health & Safety meeting of 20/10/21 during the weekly Covid Meeting on 26/10/21

- Question: If the School will not update the Covid Q&A section on its website, parents wonder if it could at least provide more detailed information about the different Covid Safety Scenarios currently in place.
  Answer: The School confirms it is open to updating the Q&A section and it will be done as soon as possible. The members of our APEEEL2 Health & Safety Committee are offering to collaborate with the School on this.

- Question: Can we have any information on the number of pupils replying that they would like to get vaccinated at school?
  Answer: The School confirms this information is confidential and it has been requested by the Luxembourg authorities not to share any information on vaccination and vaccinated pupils.

- Question on Eurosport: To encourage pupils' participation to this great event, some parents ask if vaccinated pupils can be exempted from the requirement of having a Covid test for each event.
  Answer: The School confirms that no exceptions to the testing requirements can be made and that all pupils will need to be tested.

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