

Postbus 9188
1180 MD Amstelveen

Kalkbranderij 2
1185 ZX Amstelveen
Telefoon 020 3454718

To: parents / guardians

Date: 8 September 2020

Dear parents / guardians,

Schools have been open for a few weeks now. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus has not yet gone and we have noticed that the measures in force have an impact on providing fully accessible education. This includes aspects such as staff and students having to stay at home when they have corona-related symptoms.

Onderwijsgroep Amstelland observes the Protocol on Primary Education (version of 1 September 2020). This protocol has been drawn up by organisations such as the Primary-education Council and is based on the RIVM's recommendations. It is published here:

<https://po.lesopafstand.nl/app/uploads/Protocol-volledig-openen-basisonderwijs.pdf>

An additional arrangement has been made with our schools, which includes that the school management may apply stricter measures than those included in the protocol, such as the decision not to allow parents in the school.

As you may be aware, teaching staff are not given priority in testing when they have corona-related symptoms. Unfortunately, the waiting times for testing and receiving the results from the Area Health Authority (GGD) are currently very long. For this reason, Onderwijsgroep Amstelland has decided to use a private firm to have our teaching staff tested more quickly, so we can shorten the time of absence of our employees.

However, in case it is not possible to replace an employee, the class has to be sent home and an appropriate solution will be found to continue to provide education (distance learning).

The RIVM has drawn up measures relating to situations in which your child is unable to attend school. This situation occurs when your child has slight symptoms of illness. The RIVM stipulates in that case that students are not allowed to go to school. Although we understand that these measures will place a burden on parents, Amstelland Education Group believes it necessary to take responsibility with respect to this situation and to comply with the RIVM rules.

Specifically, this means that if a student meets one of the following characteristics, we ask you not to allow your son or daughter to attend school:

Students in group 1 or 2 of primary school are allowed to go to school if they have a cold in the nose, except in case:

- the student also has a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms;
- the student is in contact with a patient with confirmed COVID-19;
- a person living in the same house as the student has a fever (above 38 degrees Celsius) and/or suffers from shortness of breath.

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Students from group 3 and up must stay at home in case:

- of a cold or other complaints that fit COVID-19 (rhinitis, runny nose, sneezing, sore throat, light cough, temperature or fever and/or sudden loss of smell or taste).
- the student is in contact with a patient with confirmed COVID-19;
- a person living in the same house as the student has a fever (above 38 degrees Celsius) and/or suffers from shortness of breath.

If during school hours it should appear that the above characteristics apply to the student, the teacher will contact you and ask you to pick up your child from school.

Have you any doubts as to whether or not your child is allowed to go to school? If so, you can make use of the 'Decision tree on allowing children with a cold' (version 3 September 2020). The two versions (0 - 6 years old and 7 - 12 years old, including children from group 3) are published here: <https://www.boink.info/nieuws/nieuwe-versie-beslisboom-neusverkouden-kind>.

We are well aware of the fact we are heavily relying on you, the parent or guardian. Yet, we ask for your understanding as the measures taken are necessary for the continuity of education for our students. Please contact the school management for any further questions or information.

Kind regards,

Ben Kuiper
Acting Chairman of the Board of Governors
Onderwijsgroep Amstelland