

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

DATE: 24/06/2020

HOURS: 16h- 17h45

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	DECISION/TO DO
1. Approval agenda and report		
1.1 Report Previous meeting (<i>approval</i>)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report approved
1.2 Agenda (<i>approval</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 postponed, as the requested numbers on stock have not been transmitted by the federated entities yet AOB points: round table, feedback from national Security Council, Observation of increased testing activities, Measures to relieve the continuing pressure on the workforce in crisis management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda approved
1.3 RMG Dashboard (<i>information</i>)		
2. Situation overview (information)		
3. Prevention		
3.1 Mask recommendation following WHO advice (<i>discussion/approval – Sciensano</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document has been adapted with two broad explanatory paragraphs A number of elements have been added as requested by the RMG in its meeting on June 22nd <p>Elements of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to clarify that the general population should ideally wear masks made of tissue rather than surgical masks (which should be reserved to healthcare professionals) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMG approves the adaptation of the recommendation of masks, the final version will be shared with the RMG and Sciensano will publish the document by the end of the week on its website

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence on better protection by FFP2 for health care professionals is considered “low quality evidence”; is that sufficient to change the approach? ; new elements, even though of low quality, need to be taken into account as soon as known, in a perspective of precaution; As mentioned before, the adaptation of the recommendation has an impact on the strategy of procurement of PPE, this needs to be taken into account by federal/federated entities in the estimation of one month’s PPE consumption for solidarity stock. There are questions on the validity of the market authorization of KN 95 beyond the duration of the crisis 	
<p>4. Surveillance and detection</p>		
<p>4.1 PCR facturation (<i>information/discussion</i>) TBC</p>	<p>PCR tests may be billed to travelers needing tests for their travels (identification of countries requiring test to be communicated by Foreign Affairs on their website). However there are still questions on the communication of the result to the client (language/English), which laboratories may analyze the tests, necessity and payment of a GP consultation to get a prescription for the test, ...</p> <p>Elements of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of travel needed to control that the test is only used in the context of travel and not by people who would just like to be tested Some reaction is awaited from RIZIV 	
<p>5. Health care</p>		
<p>6. Stocks and shortages</p>		

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6.1 Solidarity stock (discussion/approval – Gino Claes)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item postponed Federated entities are reminded to transmit estimation of one month's PPE consumption to pHE by Friday June 26th
7. Communication		
6.1 Publication RMG reports (approval)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMG members had the opportunity to send remarks until June 23rd Remarks received by Sciensano to correct the denomination of documents, organizations represented by participants, annexes .. these correction have been adapted <p>Elements of the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are still questions whether the corrections of reports in the beginning of the crisis have been integrated or not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federated entities will do a final check of reports by June 25th to verify whether previously made amendments were well taken into account RMG agrees to publish the RMG reports online by June 26th
8. International		
9. Date next meeting / agenda (approval)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next RMG meeting on Friday 26th, 16h , with the agenda proposed
10. AOB		
10.1 Feedback National Security Council	<p>The National Security council announcements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bubbles increased to 15 people/ week Swimming pools, cinemas, concert halls etc. may open under a number of conditions Probably from August on permission for events with 400 participants indoor, 800 participants outdoor From august on: authorization can be asked for events outnumbering the maximum numbers No more limit for markets in terms of the number of stands Masks: no fundamental decision (masks might become obligatory if the circulation of virus increases) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear positioning on the opening of European borders, except probable extension of the current measure (quarantine for 14 days) 	
<p>10.2 EWRS notification</p>	<p>There has been an EWRS notification received from France on cross-border contacts working in collectivities (Hainault) and concerning an outbreak of 20 people in Belgium close to the French border.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification on the functioning of EWRS in Belgium: EWRS notification can be read by everybody (federal and federated entities), thus the federal does not give an extra alert/signal to the federated entities if immediate action is expected to be taken by the federated entities in case of an incoming notification <p>Elements of the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be formal notifications to neighboring countries in case of an outbreak in Belgium implying cross-border staff even if there might be difficulties to get the necessary information Federated entities need additional access to the EWRS system; request for AVIQ will be reiterated by PHE at the European Commission Template and cross-border tracing still needs to be discussed in the interfederal committee of testing and tracing (dashboard 154) Federated entities agree to use the Excel template for cross-border tracing proposed earlier, while awaiting final validation by ECDC/ HSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMG confirms that each authority asap and automatically takes action based on each's responsibility following received EWRS notification The FPS will ensure that access to EWRS alerts is provided to each federated entity.

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<p>10.3 Measures to relieve the continuing pressure on the workforce in crisis management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In light of the continuing pressure on the workforce dealing with the crisis management in the federal and federated entities, and in order to prevent a complete breakdown during a potential second wave, federated entities have decided to take preventive measures, such as reducing stand-by duty during the evening and nights <p>Elements of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More structural workforce is needed, there is a clear lack of resources to ensure continuous management of the crisis Risks regarding summer camps Continuation of stand-by duty during day-time The difficulty to recruit / strengthen the different teams / administrations is experienced throughout all federated entities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RMG signals to the IMC Health its concerns on the shortage of human resources and the heavy pressure on the current workforce working in the federal and federated entities on the management of the crisis
<p>10.4 Round tables on lessons learned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten working groups will collect lessons learned to prepare for a potential second wave President of RMG is part of the group addressing overall crisis management and governance; RMG should give input to be taken in the group on overall crisis management and governance The input should focus on a future second wave and what will be necessary to cope with it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item will be put on the agenda of the RMG meeting on Friday 26th Table with questions will be shared with the RMG members, so RMG members can prepare written input
<p>10.5 Observation of increased testing activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sciensano receives a lot of questions on testing (screening in hospitals, laboratories, traveling, testing by employers ...) indicating that there is currently a high volume of tests being asked for <p>Elements of discussion:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sciensano will try to collect more information on buffer capacity of laboratories Item will be discussed in the context of the round tables on lessons learned

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased demand is probably related to travel plans of the population Suggestion to recommend pooling of samples in context where negative test results are expected; Pooling and testing platform will not help to reduce delays to detect positive cases; however a fast availability of the test result is still a crucial bottleneck and thus challenge; this seems to be the biggest concern in the coming months Test platform until September? Longer? Testing through classic laboratories allows to detect positive cases as quickly as possible; however classic laboratories depend on a number of suppliers for swabs etc. and there might be a risk of shortage; it should be made sure that they have enough material/ swabs to function correctly (set up a sort of buffer) Shelf life of reagent is apparently 6 months; idea to set up a strategic rolling stock of reagent as buffer capacity. Seems to be difficult as different reagents are used 	

List of participants

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