

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

DATE: 01/07/2020

HOURS: 16h – 18h

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 of 29/06/2020 is approved
1.2. Agenda (<i>approval</i>)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda is approved
1.3. RMG Dashboard (<i>information</i>)		
2. Situation overview (<i>information</i>)		
3. Prevention		
3.1. Existing multidisciplinary initiatives and structures for contingency planning and crisis management (<i>information/discussion – Leen Depuydt</i>)	Agenda item is postponed to next week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item postponed
3.2. Self-isolation when reopening EU external borders (<i>information</i>)	<p>Several questions were addressed to RMG in follow up of easing of travelling restrictions.</p> <p>Elements of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions 2 and 4 will be further addressed by ceval Possibility to impose mandatory isolation currently only in Wallonia. RMG members are invited to indicate by Friday July 3rd to RMG if national legal approach could be part of the solution or if quarantine will be made legally possible in all federated entities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMG looks forward to RAG advice for questions 1 & 3 to be discussed on Friday July 3

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4. Surveillance and detection		
<p>4.1. Barometer covid general practitioners (<i>information - Roel Van Giel</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation is provided on the Covid-19 Barometer • Concerns a daily registration by 10 000 general practitioners • Big problem is that the attention of the general practitioners slackened a little and the need to fill in the questionnaire as well. • Provides representative figures per zone • Is a fast monitoring tool that can help to avoid lockdown <p>Elements of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 barometer is useful instrument for early warning (less indicated in peak situation). • The barometer should be wider and better implemented in the future. Possibility of incentive for GPs could be explored. • The barometer is not an isolated system, but should be fully integrated in already existing monitoring systems, this is already discussed with Sciensano. • Study ongoing on waste water monitoring as early indicator at local level. • For the future, could be used for broader scope than Covid-19 (symptomatic/syndromic surveillance) • Automatised approach possible through this system : the package generates the audits itself, data's are forwarded to health data.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMG takes note of the “Barometer Covid-19 general practitioners as part of an Early warning system”
<p>4.2. Measures for small children (testing and contact classification) (<i>discussion/approval - Sciensano</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of the number of tested children has been observed since the case definition was changed (testing realized if rhinitis syndromes observed). • Signal received from the field that the situation is untenable; a lot of children has been tested, with a very low positivity rate • Testing is painful for the children and stressful for the parents. <p>Elements of discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to clarify what is meant by “if the result would have an impact on measures to be taken” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RMG approves the document ‘Measures for small children less than 3 years old’ with the remarks made during the meeting. • Adapted procedures will be presented for approval during the RMG on Friday July 3.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to residential structures (mostly between 15 à 50 children, 0-6 years old) • The reimbursement by RIZIV/INAMI will take place if the GP recommends a test. • Procedures will be adapted on the basis of the document but their publication will not take place before July 8th. 	
<p>4.3. PCR test interpretation (discussion/approval - Sciensano)</p>	<p>RAG recommendations on PCR interpretation is presented (origin of the request: difficulty to distinguish between old and new infections and thus infectivity).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ct-value can be used. High Ct (cycle threshold) value: low risk. But not all labs can show this value. • Viral load: strongly depends on type of test • according to precautionary approach, in the absence of clinical information a positive PCR should be considered as infectious. • Too little scientific evidence to be able to offer solutions • Recommendations include ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ use semi quantitative information (as Ct values differ) ○ No new PCR test if a positive PCR test was taken within the previous two months ○ No systematic serology ○ Revision of the screening strategy in hospitals (ongoing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMG approves the RAG recommendations for interpretation of PCR results and infectivity
<p>5. Health care</p>		
<p>6. Stocks and shortages</p>		
<p>7. Communication</p>		
<p>8. International</p>		
<p>8.1. Developments at international level (information – Timmy Van Dijck)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International evolution outside EU not positive (in particular US, Brazil, India, etc.) • Record figures new cases 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China have placed 0,5 million people in quarantine Europa : more than half million cases. Local lockdown in Lisbon Sweden start evaluation, reduction of the growth rate. 	
9. Date next meeting (approval)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RMG approves the proposed agenda A proposal will be made on the frequency of future meetings
10. AOB	This week a handover takes place at the RMG support team and the new team is welcomed; the president expresses his thanks and sincere appreciation for the work done.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RMG thanks Anna, Claire, Geert, Manon, Bo for their extraordinary support for the RMG meetings and welcomes Luna, Dounia, Geneviève and Thomas
10.1 Pigs influenza in China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New study in China highlighted pig virus with a potential to turn to a pandemic. Currently no human to human transmission observed.. Point of attention: surveillance system in Belgium for pig viruses nowadays not in place. 	

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