



Rotterdam, 28 May 2021.

To the parents and carers of students attending the Wolfert van Borselen schools

Dear parents and carers,

The government has decided that secondary schools may fully reopen. This decision was received at school with mixed feelings. While we're looking forward to welcoming all our students again, there are concerns about the increased risk of infection among staff and students, with all the consequences this may have.

### **Full reopening on 7 June**

At the Wolfert van Borselen schools we're now busy preparing to reopen. We want to make sure that everything is organised properly and responsibly, and so we have decided not to open fully until 7 June. Up to then we'll continue to teach using the hybrid schedule, as we have been doing for the past few months.

### **Twice weekly self-tests**

A major condition for reopening the school as safely as possible is that all students test themselves twice a week for COVID-19. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science will supply the school with home test kits free of charge. Every student will be given enough of these kits to test themselves twice a week, under the supervision of their parents or carers.

Self-testing is voluntary, but for the school it is very important to know who is planning to take part. For this reason, an extra question has been added to the parental consent module in Magister enabling parents and carers to indicate whether their child will self-test. Students aged 16 and over may decide for themselves. **We kindly request you to choose your option in the Magister parental consent module as soon as possible, but no later than 2 June.** As soon as you open Magister using the parent login code, a popup will appear to take you straight to the right place. For students aged 16 and over, the popup will appear when you log on to Magister or the Magister app.

### **More information on self-testing**

It's important to use the home test kits properly. Self-testing is preventive, to detect a possible infection early and prevent it spreading further. It is not intended for students and staff members who:

- are already displaying symptoms;
- are in self-quarantine because they have been in contact with an infected person;
- have come from abroad (from a code orange or code red area);
- have received an alert through the coronavirus app.

In all the above cases, the person in question must get a PCR test at a Municipal Health Service (GGD) test centre. Under no circumstances may the self-test be used by students to reduce the period in which they have to stay in self-quarantine. A period of quarantine can only be brought to an end after a PCR test at a GGD test centre has proved negative.



## **In conclusion**

We realise that twice-weekly self-testing is hardly ideal. But it is an essential condition if we are to reopen the school safely. In the interests of both students and staff, we therefore urgently request you to cooperate.

Kind regards,

Rob Fens

Executive principal