Opening up preconditions
educational institutions with regard to preventive measures COVID-19

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Target group: Demarcated educational institutions: nursery, primary and secondary schools, secondary vocational education, universities, special education institutions that provide classroom education. Other educational institutions, including day care, pre-school and after-school care, homes and other special educational institutions (Pasadia Bibito Pin, Pasadia Briyo di Solo y Centro Man na Obra van Stichting voor Verstandelijk Gehandicapten Aruba (SVGA) are outside the scope of this document.

When scaling up the current measures in accordance with Ministerial Order AB 1989 no. 62 General Control COVID-19 (such as shutdown, curfew, lockdown), it is essential that everyone adhere to their preventive measures regarding hygiene and social distance as much as possible. In addition, it is important that new cases are being detected, investigated and treated as soon as possible so that further spread is prevented.

The Department of Public Health (DVG) has drawn up the following preconditions that set out the minimum requirements that educational institutions must adhere to when opening up. This applies to all institutions within the target group and will be checked. It is the responsibility of the school boards to implement all required measures.

These guidelines are adjusted if necessary. It is important to consult the latest version of this document at www.arubacovid19.org.

1. Measures to ensure good hygiene
   - Schools ensure that the following hygiene regulations are as much as possible adhered to
   - In every classroom there should be:
     - Hand sanitizer (min 60%)
     - Soap
     - Paper towels
     - Waste bin
     - Surface sprays
   - Teaching aids, devices, workplaces, surfaces (e.g. desks and tables) and objects (telephones, keyboards, in kindergarten and primary schools possibly also toys and play materials) should be regularly cleaned with disinfectant when used by several students. Also materials that are regularly used by several teachers are regularly disinfected. Pay particular attention to surfaces that are frequently touched by students and staff, such as light buttons, door and window handles, banisters, etc.
   - One or more staff members within the educational institution must be held responsible for supervising the implementation of these hygiene measures.
   - Intensive cleaning at least once a day.
   - Ensure that enough cleaning products are available to the (cleaning) staff.
   - Ventilate classrooms during cleaning by opening both windows and doors.
   - Ensure the promotion of regular and thorough hand washing / disinfection and good cough hygiene by students and staff.
     - Hands needs to be cleaned with soap and water and / or with hand sanitizer when entering the classroom, before and after eating and after using the toilet.
     - Offers information on the following hygiene regulations:
Opening up preconditions educational institutions with regard to preventive measures COVID-19 def version 1.0

Everyone should wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, in the absence of water use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol;
- When sneezing or coughing, a paper handkerchief is used immediately afterwards is thrown away; if not available, coughing or sneezing in the curve of the elbow;
- The face, especially the mouth, nose and eyes, should be touched as little as possible.

- Ensure that students and staff have access to places where they can wash their hands with soap and water.
- Display posters to promote hand washing, cough hygiene, etc. Consult www.arubacovid19.org.
- Communicate the above-mentioned regulations via your own communication channels, such as (briefings at meetings, circulars, e-mail, website, WhatsApp groups) to promote hand and cough hygiene for both students and staff

2. Measures to ensure social distance
- Organize the classes / lessons in such a way that social distance of 1 ½ meters is guaranteed as much as possible and to prevent as much agglomeration of students as possible. This also applies to any gym lessons or sports activities.
  - Different start and end times for schools can be considered to prevent agglomeration
  - The flow of people can also be taken into account.
- The available space in the school building should be used optimally, so that as much distance as possible is created between students and between students and teachers.
- The institution needs to take care of the designation and layout of the workplace in order to guarantee the above conditions.
- Outdoor furniture (tables, benches, chairs) in the schoolyard or playground should be placed at a good distance from each other where possible, so that students can have enough space between them.
- There is as little physical contact as possible between teaching staff and parent (s) / caregiver (s).
- Designate permanent places where students can say goodbye to parent (s) / caregiver (s) before entering the schoolyard / school. Parent (s) / caregiver (s) are as little as possible on the field of the educational institution
- Personnel is outside to manage the drop off and pick up of students and to prevent agglomeration of students or parents / caregivers (s) in the field of the educational institution or beyond
- Students are picked up by a maximum of one adult.
- If the staff room is allowed, teachers with at least two chairs between each teacher can use the staff room.
- Lunch in their own classroom and after class, the students should go home immediately.
- Lunch with one other teacher in a room with at least 1 ½ m distance.
- Do not organize events on the school grounds where large groups come together.

3. Measures to ensure that sick students or staff members are not at the educational institution
- Access of a visibly ill student or staff member will be denied
- Inform parents, students and staff members that everyone with one or more of the following complaints must at least stay at home:
  - Common cold.
  - Sneezing.
  - Coughing.
  - Sore throat.
  - Difficulty breathing.
  - Fever.
- The procedure for reporting sick must be adapted if necessary (see also under point 4. Strengthen sickness reporting procedure at educational institutions).
- Display posters with this message in strategic places. Combine this with other communication channels often used to inform parents, students and staff.
Opening up preconditions educational institutions with regard to preventive measures COVID-19 def version 1.0

When a staff member or student develops the above complaints during the day, the staff member has to go home. If a student gets sick, he/she need to be immediately picked up by a parent / caregiver.

4. Strengthen sickness reporting procedure
Objective: To monitor absenteeism due to respiratory complaints / syndromes in schools.

- It is important that all educational institutions in Aruba have an adequately functioning sickness reporting procedure.
- The responsibility of the (daily) reporting to the Department of Public Health (DVG) is with the headmasters / headmaster and / or school board.
- Procedure:
  - The sickness reporting procedure starts with the parents / caregivers of the student. In the first symptoms of illness, the parents must follow the sickness reporting procedure associated with the school. It is important to communicate the student's symptoms.
  - After the headmaster or the school director has received all sick reports, he / she must share this list daily with the DVG’s “Jeugdgezondheidszorg (JGZ) department. An Excel file should be made in which all relevant information must be entered.

For questions regarding these preconditions, the educational institution can contact a nurse from the JGZ of the DVG.

Sources used:

Key Messages and actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Controls in Schools; Document prepared by UNICEF / WHO; March 2020

Integraal preventieplan COVID-19 infecties, voor scholen, tehuizen voor- en naschoolse opvang (0-18 jaar); Drs Joan van Heyningen; Department of Public Health; March 2020

Protocol Startup Primary Schools; PO Council of the Netherlands; version April 22, 2020