Author's response to reviews

Title: Does lowering alcohol use among Dutch high school students lead to higher use of tobacco and cannabis?

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In your email dated 20-8 you asked us to make 3 improvements to the manuscript of: “Does lowering alcohol use among Dutch high school students lead to higher use of tobacco and cannabis?”

a) Ethics Statement: Research involving human subjects (including human material or human data) that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html). A statement to this effect must appear in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.

We added the following subsection to the methods section:

Ethical approval and Consent.

This study has been reported to the Dutch data protection authority and meets national ethics and privacy requirements.

b) Consent Statement: Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian.

We added the following to the subsection “Setting and study population” in the methods section:

Parents from students younger than 16 were informed of the data collection by mail and could separately refuse inclusion of the child into the data collection. This method of passive consent is in accordance with Dutch legal standards. In the “Setting and study population” there already was an explanation on how permission from the students/children was obtained.
c) Please Provide the email address of all the authors in the title page.
Done.