



Coronavirus self-testing in schools Information for parents

To parents and guardians

Germany's chancellor held video conference discussions with regional government heads on 3 March 2021. Among the decisions made was a resolution to enable self-testing for school pupils. This measure complements the hygiene solutions in place at schools, which have thus far proven successful, and is a further integral part of the overall strategy for improving prevention of infection in children. Self-testing in Lower Saxony is to be carried out on a weekly basis in class, with guidance from staff.

Self-tests will take place at the start of the school day. Pupils will be given guidance in this by teachers or other educators.

A prerequisite for self-testing of your child before the Easter holidays is our having received your written declaration of consent. The school will provide you with the necessary form. To reiterate: your child may take part in this self-testing prior to the Easter holidays only if we have received your permission. Once your child has been instructed (and understands) the procedure – this should not take long – each child will perform the test on him- or herself. The test result will be determined and noted by the teacher and child together.

If the result is positive, this means only that the child may be infected with the SARS-COV 2 virus. A suspected case must be confirmed by other means (i.e. PCR testing).

As the parent or guardian, you will be immediately notified by the school if your child tests positive (to reiterate, this merely means that SARS-COV-2 infection may be present). Your child will receive appropriate supervision until they are collected and will not, under any circumstances, be left to their own devices. It will then be up to you to take the necessary further steps to confirm the diagnosis. This confirmation can be obtained at your GP practice or a rapid-testing centre. This involves your child undergoing a PCR test. A medical professional will decide whether, based on their assessment of the result, the child is indeed infected with the SARS-COV-2 virus.

The local health authority (Gesundheitsamt) will tell you how to proceed further.

Until in-person teaching is resumed, the child shall – health permitting – undergo schooling in the form of distance learning.

The intention is to continue with self-testing after the Easter holidays.

Your child's participation in self-testing means that both you and they are playing an important part in improving control of the infection, in strengthening the school community, and hence in helping to ensure that open schools can reliably deliver the mandated schooling programme and hours.