

Bildungsdirektion

Dr. Robert Klinglmair
Bildungsdirektor

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Klagenfurt a. W., im Dezember 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The coronavirus pandemic is a major challenge for us all. Our aim is to ensure that schools operate as normally as possible. Unfortunately, there is no let-up in the COVID-19 pandemic. With this in mind, we ask for your continued help in our efforts to contain the spread of the virus as much as possible. This includes not sending your children to school if they are displaying any signs of illness and – if they are over 6 – providing them with a face mask to wear at school.

Until now, any child in school with typical COVID-19 symptoms was considered a suspected case. The school office had to inform the health authority, which then usually ordered a (PCR) coronavirus test. There would be a wait before the test could be carried out and then another wait for the results. This often resulted in a great deal of upheaval at the school: parents had to stay at home with their child and wait for a test; teachers had to self-isolate and were unable to teach, even if the child did not test positive for the virus.

There is now a solution to this upheaval and to the uncertainty about whether or not a child has contracted COVID-19.

- The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) will be providing Austrian schools with rapid antigen tests.
- The evaluation of these tests does not require a laboratory. The result is available after 15 to 30 minutes.
- These tests are a very innovative and harmless way of determining whether any symptoms experienced by the pupils and staff at our school are caused by the virus.

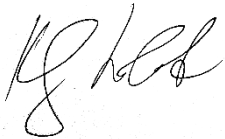
I am therefore writing to encourage you to make use of this service and to give your consent for your child to have the rapid antigen test. Children over 14 can give this consent themselves. Participation is, of course, voluntary and no one will be forced to take the test. In addition, we will always contact you before your child is tested in order to discuss the specific situation with you and also to establish whether you can come to the school in time for the test if you wish to do so. You also have the option to withdraw your consent. If you do not wish to give your consent, the school office is obliged to report any suspicious symptoms to the health authority, which will then decide on further measures.

Use of the rapid tests provides an excellent opportunity for us all to help ensure that the school operates as smoothly as possible.

Finally, I have an urgent request: please continue to keep your child at home if he/she is displaying any signs of illness.

For further information, please refer to the appendix to this letter and to the official information provided by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research: www.bmbwf.gv.at/antigentests.

Thank you for your cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Klinglmair', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Robert Klinglmair
Der Bildungsdirektor

Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, 03. Dezember 2020