

Englisch - English

Information for parents on compulsory rapid testing for pupils from 6 April 2021– to be sent by the school

Dear parents,

We are following the development of the infection figures in Hamburg and the Federal Republic with great concern. In just a few weeks, the infection figures have doubled. The Hamburg Senate has consequently decided to make rapid testing compulsory from 6 April 2021 for all pupils who take part in the schools' attendance programmes.

The rapid tests ensure greater safety in schools, in families and in public life. They help to detect infections at an early stage so as to effectively inhibit potential outbreaks. Not only do the rapid tests purchased by the school authorities have very high medical accuracy – they are also easy to carry out and neither painful nor uncomfortable.

The use of the rapid tests in Hamburg's schools has started well, with around 89 percent of all pupils having been tested. Nevertheless, many parents have contacted the school authorities and asked that participation in attendance programmes in schools be linked to compulsory testing for the protection of their children.

The Senate has taken this into account in its decision-making. From 6 April 2021, all pupils taking part in face-to-face classes, exams and examinations in schools will be required to perform a rapid test for non-experts. Those who refuse to take the self-test will not be able to participate in face-to-face classes, but will be taught at a distance.

In principle, two rapid tests are scheduled weekly for all pupils entering the schools. Pupils in the pre-school are exempt from the mask and test obligation until further notice.

It is **not** necessary for parents to give their consent for the rapid test to be carried out, as the pupils carry out the test themselves and the attendance requirement remains waived, i.e. parents can also choose to have their child take part in distance learning.

If a rapid test is **positive**, you as parents will be informed immediately by the school and asked to pick up younger children from school. After a positive rapid test, a so-called PCR test must be carried out to confirm or correct the result of the rapid test. You will receive a notification form for this, along with information on where the PCR test can be arranged. Your child must go into quarantine until the result is available. The school will take care of the mandatory notification of a suspected case to the responsible health office.

Please let us know if the PCR test is negative – your child can then come back to school if a “normal” infection does not have to be cured first. If the PCR test is also positive and a corona infection is confirmed, you as parents should coordinate the further procedure with the responsible health authority.

With kind regards

School Management