

Information for parents on the use of Covid-19 self-tests for lay people in schools

Dear Parents,

At the end of February the Education Authority had already announced that schools should be cautiously re-opened again after the March holidays. In doing this, we take the safety of your children most seriously. To further reduce the danger of passing on Covid-19, all pupils and employees at the school should take part in a free and voluntary Covid-19 test every week.

The new tests purchased by the Education Authority have been really accurately medically verified, are easy to carry out and neither painful nor uncomfortable. Unlike with previous tests, the test stick does not have to be inserted into the back of the throat, but only briefly into the front of the nose. Models of this type of test have already been deployed in schools in other countries with great success. So, in the interests of the health of your own and all other children as well as all people employed in schools, we kindly ask you to encourage your children to take advantage of this offer for testing in their school.

Both of the rapid tests used in schools – the “CLINITEST Rapid COVID-19 Antigen Self Test” and the “SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Test” – have been assessed by the Paul Ehrlich Institute responsible for this and approved by the German Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices. Both tests are noted for their high quality and are pleasant to use. All pupils, including younger children of primary school age, can do the test themselves with guidance from their school. The necessary swab is taken from the front nasal cavity with a cotton bud.

Here you have a link to a video that shows you how easy it is to administer the rapid test:
[Corona-Test-Erklärvideo - hamburg.de](https://www.corona-test-erkl%C3%A4rvideo-hamburg.de).

One test a week has initially been planned for school pupils, as they are currently in an alternating teaching system and will not yet be in school for the whole week.
The schools will conduct a test on the first weekday when each of the pupils attend school.

If the rapid test is **negative**, the usual hygiene rules must still of course be observed, as the test result always only gives us a snapshot of the situation.

If the rapid test is **positive**, you as parents will be informed immediately by the school and asked to collect any younger children from the school. A PCR test must be carried out urgently after a positive rapid test result. This will confirm or correct the result of the rapid test. You will receive a notification form for this, and details of where the PCR test can be obtained. Your child must remain in quarantine until the result has been submitted. The school will take care of the mandatory notification of any suspected cases to the responsible health authority.

If the PCR test is negative, please let us know and your child can then come back to school, as long as he or she has first recovered from any “normal” infection. If the PCR test is positive and a Covid-19 infection has been confirmed, the parents then agree on how to proceed with the responsible health authority.

Dear Parents,

With this new test offer, safety in schools – and beyond – will be considerably increased. If this new test offer proves successful, there is great hope that, step by step, more classes in the school will have lessons. With this in mind, we ask for your support as parents. So please encourage your children to take advantage of this test offer. Should you have any questions about the test, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher or our internal school test team. Information on the rapid tests will also be posted on the Education Authority website at <https://www.hamburg.de/bsb/13679646/corona-faqs/>.

Best regards,

Your school administration