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Mandatory masks in schools / continuation of rapid tests at home

Münster, 18.03.2022

Dear parents and guardians of the Hermann School,

today, Friday, 18.03.2022, we received new information from the Ministry regarding the mask obligation in elementary school.

1. compulsory masking in schools

The amended Infection Protection Act provides a legal basis for an obligation to wear a mask indoors in schools already with the beginning of next week, so with effect from March 20, 2022, in principle no longer.

The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia has nevertheless decided to take advantage of a transitional period and maintain the existing measures for infection control in schools on the basis of the existing Corona Care Ordinance.

Thus, until Saturday, April 2, 2022, Section 2 of the Corona Care Ordinance will make it mandatory to wear a mask in all indoor school spaces.

In the last week before the Easter vacations (04.04. - 08.04.2022), every student and all persons working in school are free to wear a mask voluntarily in the school buildings.

2. continuation of school-based testing (rapid tests at home)

However, under the new Infection Protection Act, the states may continue to mandate school-based testing. For **North Rhine-Westphalia**, the state government has decided that school testing will continue in its current form **until the last school day before the Easter vacations, i.e. April 8, 2022.**

Therefore, until the Easter vacations, you as parents and guardians will receive the already known self-tests for home use and the corresponding letter in which you declare in writing that you will test your child three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) before school.

According to the current state of knowledge, home testing will be discontinued after the Easter vacations, unless there is an unexpected critical development in the incidence of infection.

For further information please see

<https://www.schulministerium.nrw/18032022-aenderung-der-regelungen-zum-infektions-schutz-den-schulen>

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our secretary's office,
with best regards from the school,

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

Judith Lüttikhuis
- principal -