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## **PRESENCE CLASSES AFTER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

06.01.2022

Dear Parents and Guardians of Hermann School,

First of all I would like to wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year 2022.

Today, Thursday, 06.01.2022, we received the Ministry's instructions on how lessons will be held from Monday, 10.01.2022 onwards. Fortunately, we will start with face-to-face teaching. I was a little concerned about the increase in infection figures, so I am very relieved and pleased that we will start normally on Monday.

Enclosed you will find the Ministry's advice:

In order to further limit the incidence of infection among children and adolescents and to minimise severe courses of the disease, Minister Gebauer would like to see a greater expansion of vaccination offers in this age group.

Expansion of testing at schools as of 10.01.2022

The school testing strategy for the start of school will be adapted. From the first school day after the Christmas holidays (10 January 2022), the familiar testing arrangements will apply to all pupils regardless of their immunisation status. This means that both immunised (vaccinated and recovered) and non-immunised pupils must take part in the tests. All pupils at Hermann School will give a total of two tests: one pool test and one reserve sample as part of the PCR lollipop test.

The testing rhythm you are already familiar with will continue, so that all children will be tested twice a week at school.

From 10.01.2022, the optimised lollipop testing procedure will start as planned. As described above, the children will take two tests: On the one hand, the already known lollipop test (pool test) and, in addition, a second, so-called reserve sample. This has the advantage of speeding up the necessary pool resolution. This acceleration of the transmission of the test results spares the non-infected pupils a day in quarantine in case of a positive pool. In addition, a direct transmission of results by the laboratories to the guardians takes place.

I had already informed you, dear parents and guardians, about this optimised procedure in December 2021 with the parents' letter "Notes on testing procedures before the Christmas holidays".

Different arrangements must be made for participation in the upcoming Lolli test procedures:

1. pupils with full vaccination protection

Pupils with full vaccination protection can, according to scientific assessment, continue to participate in the Lolli test procedure without risk of falsifying the test result of the PCR pool.

2. recovered pupils

Recovered pupils are not allowed to participate in the Lolli test procedure during the first eight weeks after their return from isolation. They are therefore exempt from compulsory testing at school during this period.

The background for this regulation is that virus particles can still be detected in convalescents for a longer period of time and in these individual cases the highly sensitive PCR test can still lead to a positive pool and individual test. After eight weeks, recovered pupils also take part in the Lolli test procedure again.

If pupils do not take part in the school tests - except for the reasons mentioned above (2) - they must present proof of a negative citizenship test at the time of the scheduled school test in order to be allowed to take part in the attendance classes.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.schulministerium.nrw/06012022-schulstart-mit-anpassung-der-teststrategie-nach-den-weihnachtsferien>

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our secretary's office,

best regards from the school,

Judith Lüttikhuis  
- Headmistress -