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Information about the test procedure in the last school week before the Christmas vacations and about the start of the optimized "Lolli test procedure" after the Christmas holidays

Dear parents and guardians of Hermann School,

Please find enclosed information from the Ministry regarding the testing procedures during the last week before the Christmas vacations as well as the start of the optimized testing procedures after the Christmas vacations.

Due to the fact that Hermann School has a floating vacation on 12/23/2021, all children at the school will go through pool testing as early as 12/21/2021. This was discussed this morning with the laboratory in Iserlohn.

Enclosed I forward you the letter from the ministry:

Thanks to the good cooperation of all parties involved, and thus also thanks to your commitment, it was possible to carry out the face-to-face teaching until the end of the year in the interest of your children. Therefore, at the end of the year, we would like to thank you very much for your support.

Thanks to well coordinated communication between the laboratories, the school and you, we have so far succeeded in making the information on the results available to all those involved at the agreed times, so that in the event of a positive result, it is possible for the children to attend classes again immediately, with the greatest possible safety for the health of all pupils. Should there have been individual delays due to the noticeably high workload at the laboratories or should this be the case in the future, we would like to ask for your understanding.

With the start on January 10, 2022, we will simplify the lollipop testing procedure to the effect that in the future, in addition to the pool sample, students will submit a in addition to the pool sample in the morning, so that in the event of an abnormal pool test result, it can now be evaluated immediately by the laboratories. We have already informed you about this in connection with the school mail of November 16, 2021. In this way, you as the parent or guardian will no longer have to submit an individual sample to the school in the event of a positive pool test. This will save your children a day of isolation at home in the event of a positive pool result. In concrete terms, this means that all students whose individual sample is negative will be able to return to class the next morning. You, as the parent or guardian, will be informed of the result directly by the laboratory on the basis of the registered student data.

For this purpose, it is urgently required that you always keep your contact data deposited with the schools up to date and inform the school immediately of any changes.

Especially with regard to this adjustment of the test procedure in the first start-up phase, we would like to expressly ask you to refrain from direct queries to the laboratories by yourself and to contact the school in case of need during this transition period.

In addition, we would like to draw your attention to the following adjustments to the testing rhythm:

1. testing rhythm in the last week of school before the Christmas holidays.

During the last week before the vacations, all children will participate in pool testing on December 21, 2021. This will ensure that your children can all enter the holidays with the utmost confidence.

An overview of the adjusted testing schedule before the Christmas vacations is posted on the Education Portal. Until the Christmas vacations, the familiar procedure will still be followed. This means that in case of a positive pool test, please bring your child's individual sample directly to school. If your child still has to provide an individual sample at school on the last day of school for the purpose of pool resolution, we would like to point out that this individual test result will be sent directly to you by the laboratory on the morning of the following day, December 23, 2021. You, as parents, will then take the next steps in the event of a positive individual sample.

2. testing rhythm in the first week after the Christmas holidays

In order to ensure the safest possible start to school in the new year, all students should provide a pool and individual sample as part of the PCR lollipop testing on Monday, January 10, 2022. Thereafter, the testing schedule you are familiar with and have on file in the Education Portal will continue beginning the following Wednesday. Please understand that the increased testing volume at the labs may cause delays in pool and individual test result submission. Students who were in a positive pool and whose individual test result is not yet available will remain in so-called home isolation on Tuesday, January 11, 2021, until the individual test result is available.

You can additionally increase everyone's safety and your child's healthy return to school by regularly taking advantage of citizen testing opportunities during the Christmas break as well.

We will be happy to answer any urgent questions you may have.

We wish you a relaxing holiday season and a good start to the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Lüttikhuis
- Principal -