



27. April 2021

Dear Parents,

sophisticated test concepts can lead to a greater degree of security also in the children's day care centers and children's day care institutions. Those concepts contribute substantially to protect the employees in the day care centers as well as your children from an infection with the coronavirus. Regular tests allow an early identification of infections and the breaking of infection chains. This leads to a reduction of the rate of new infections.

Schoolchildren can perform a self-test at school. However, the testing of children of nursery and kindergarten age cannot be performed with adequate reliability with the currently available antigen rapid tests (so-called self-tests) for self-testing. Because in case of small children there are often substantial problems regarding the taking of a swab. **Appropriate** alternative test options (gargle and/or saliva tests or lollipop tests with pooling) are currently not available due to the lack of capacities of the laboratories which are required for this purpose. However, those options are already in the test phase.

This is why it is currently required to rely on a so-called „**environment testing**“ for nursery school children and children in day care centers instead of testing the children. That means that the children themselves are not tested on a regular basis but their environment shall take the test. Therefore, we kindly ask the parents but also older siblings and other persons who have frequent contact with your children to make regular use of the existing test options. This will increase the chance of interrupting infection chains.

Dear parents, we specifically ask you and the other contact persons mentioned above to have tests taken on a regular basis (ideally on Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday). This may be done in context of the tests at your place of work or in context of the (free of charge) testing of citizens. Those tests are offered in local test centers, in medical practices or pharmacies (for detailed information, please see the following link: <https://www.stmgp.bayern.de/coronavirus/bayerische-teststrategie/>). Of course, you can take the test yourself with the self-tests available in stores.

A test of your children is only required if they show any symptoms of a disease. In those cases, we recommend a PCR test of your children because this is the safest method to find out whether your child is infected with the coronavirus. For detailed information, please see the hygiene framework as well as our overview of the handling of disease symptoms.

This is why we would like to express our thanks for your cooperation at this point already – the only way to gain control of the corona pandemic is to join our efforts.

Your Department V3 – Children's Daycare