



21.12.2021

COVID testing requirement for children starting 10 January 2022

Dear parents,

It is our common goal to keep all child day care facilities and family day care providers open in spite of the currently high infection rates. Childcare facilities are educational facilities. Furthermore, they are indispensable for creating a balance between work life and family life. For that reason, it is essential to make use of every possibility to increase the protection against infectious diseases for our children and those working in childcare.

We have to do whatever we can to make sure that the coronavirus does not even make it into the childcare facility. This way, we prevent spreading the virus within the facility and make sure that children do not bring the virus into their homes. To further increase COVID protection in childcare, a **proof of testing requirement will come into effect starting 10 January 2022. This requirement affects children who have completed their first year and have not yet entered primary school.** This means that starting 10 January 2022, children will only be cared for in childcare facilities if they are tested three times per week. These tests, however, will not be performed at the facilities. An at-home test can be performed to show that they are COVID negative. Proof of the negative result must be provided.

Your childcare facility will make the final decision about how the test requirement will be implemented on site. Below, you will find **two possible options**. Your childcare facility marks the option that applies in your case. For both options, the test regime is set up for regular testing on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**. If your child is not present on one of these days, the test will be performed as soon as the child is back at the care facility. The priority is on testing in **regular intervals**.

Option 1:

- On testing days, you bring the **cassette of the at-home self-test** that was performed on that day to the childcare facility. The cassette is the part of the test-kit that shows the test result.
- **After you have presented the cassette, you dispose of the cassette** on site using a garbage bag provided by the childcare facility.

Option 2:

- [Following the link](#), you will find a **form** with information about the testing requirement currently in force. **After every test**, you enter the testing date and the test result into that form, sign the entry and **present that form** when bringing your child to the childcare facility on testing days.
- Only one parent needs to sign the form.
- Afterwards **you take the form back to your home and present it again containing the latest entry on the next testing day.**

If you do not provide proof of testing, your child cannot be cared for. If a third person brings your child to the childcare facility, that person will present the child's used test cassette or the form containing your entry and signature.

Alternatively, you still have the option to present official confirmation of having performed a PoC antigen rapid lateral flow test (Bürgerstest) or PCR test. In childcare facilities with PCR pooling, the test requirement is fulfilled by taking part in the pooling so that no further proof is required.

Once again, you will receive qualifying certificates (Berechtigungsschein) from your childcare facility, which you can use to pick up at-home tests at your local pharmacy free of charge. Please be advised that the qualifying certificate must be returned to the childcare facility after having redeemed your tests.

We thank you for your cooperation and wish you happy holidays.

Yours, Referat V3 – Kindertagesbetreuung