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Dear Parents, Dear Legal Guardians

Due to the currently very high prevalence of infection and also the escalating occupancy and hospitalisation rates in Saarland's hospitals and in order to protect its citizens against coronavirus infection spreading further and ensure its sustained containment Saarland's State Government has adapted its coronavirus regulations with effect from 11.12.2021. This means that stricter measures will now be imposed in many areas.

At the same time there has also been some relaxation of restrictions in that anyone who has had a coronavirus booster vaccination is not required to provide proof of an up-to-date negative 2G-plus<sup>1</sup> test. That means that proof of a booster vaccination is sufficient as evidence of 2G-plus.

This rule for society as a whole will also be taken into consideration in the case of the twice-weekly tests taking place at school. Provided your child has already been fully vaccinated and has also had the booster vaccination, it will not be required – on presentation of appropriate proof – to participate in the twice-weekly tests taking place at school. Naturally, it is possible to continue participating in the school-testing programme on a voluntary basis.

As you know, the permanent certificates with which underage schoolchildren can prove in areas outside school that they are participating in regular testing at school or provide other equivalent proof and which are also considered to be proof for 2G<sup>2</sup> and 2G-plus will no longer be valid as of 23.12.2021. New certificates for underage schoolchildren will not be implemented until 04.01.2022.

According to the new coronavirus regulations that came into effect on 11.12.2021, underage schoolchildren can, as of 11.12.2021, instead of the permanent certificate, also use a test certificate, for example from a test centre and even a test carried out on the spot – if available - as proof for 2G and 2G-plus. This is particularly important for the Christmas holiday period.

In order to safeguard the return to school after the Christmas holidays all schoolchildren will be given six test kits each by their schools that can be used in the holidays for self-testing. If possible, the last test should take place on the last day before the start of school (03.01.2022). A short guide on how to take such a test is enclosed in the test kit.

<sup>1</sup> Persons who recovered from Covid or fully vaccinated persons are admitted if they can also present a negative test result (less than 24 hours)

<sup>2</sup> Persons who recovered from Covid or fully vaccinated persons are admitted

**We would be grateful if you could support your child with the testing, for example by reminding it in good time or by helping it with the testing process if it cannot as yet do it independently.**

**Please complete the self-declaration form for a negative test result that you will also have received from the school and give it to your child to bring to school on the first day of school.**

Naturally, it is also possible to submit a test certificate issued by a testing site or test centre; however, it must not be older than 24 hours at the start of school.

**If the test result turns out to be positive, please inform your doctor's surgery immediately, where all further arrangements will be made. In this case, your child must not attend school in person for the time being. Please also let the school know that your child cannot come to school.**

Dear Parents, Dear Legal Guardians, we rely on your support to organise the safest start possible in the New Year even in these times of the coronavirus. Therefore, we would like to thank you for your understanding and cooperation in implementing these important measures to protect against infection at school – even if, in respect of the great importance attached to compulsory education and school attendance, presentation of the self-declaration or test certificate is not required for participation in lessons and supervisory activities on the first day of school.

If you prefer not to use the test kits because you wish to take advantage of the tests offered by a test centre, you can, of course, return the tests to the school.