

Open letter to all parents and students

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed educators, parents and guardians, dear students,

As you have no doubt gathered from the media coverage, next Monday, April 26, 2021, Vienna's schools will once again open their doors for face-to-face classes.

Elementary schools and the 1st to 4th grades in the special schools are continuously in attendance mode, while all other types of schools are again run in shift mode - as was the case recently.

In order for us to make school operations as safe as possible, targeted and comprehensive testing of our children is an essential factor, in addition to compliance with hygiene measures on site, so that we can have the best possible overview of the incidence of infection and thus make schools as safe as possible. To this end, antigen self-testing continues to be carried out at schools. Students now test themselves up to three times a week, and educators at least twice. The first round of testing will take place before classes resume next Monday morning.

In addition to the existing system of rapid tests, the City of Vienna has installed an additional testing offer with the project "Alles gurgelt". We invite you to take advantage of the offer even before school starts on Monday. It is a free PCR gargle test in cooperation with supermarkets, gas station stores and drugstores*. Registration for the tests is available at www.allesgurgelt.at. The website also provides all information on the test procedure and answers to all common questions.

This offer gives us an additional overview of the infection incidence in addition to the testing carried out at the school sites. By performing the gargle tests regularly and, if possible, before school starts with your children, you provide even more safety for all of us.

For the sake of our children's health and for the common cause of being able to continue to guarantee open schools, we would like to invite you all to make use of this great offer within the framework of "Alles gurgelt".

Through your participation, you can now all make a further contribution so that we can end this school year on a positive note!



Prof. Dr. Heinz Faßmann

Federal Minister of Education, Science
and research



Christoph Wiederkehr, MA

Executive Councilor for Education, Youth,
Integration and transparency

* The test can be picked up at all BIPA stores in Vienna and conveniently handed in at any REWE store in Vienna (Billa, Billa Plus, BIPA and Penny as well as at the gas station stores BP-MERKUR inside, Jet-Billa Stop & Shop, Shell-Billa Unterwegs). If handed in at REWE stores by 2 p.m. on Saturday or gas stations by 9 a.m. on Sunday, the results will already be available before school starts.