

Press release - 618/07/2020

Düsseldorf, 30 July 2020

## Free coronavirus tests for school and child day care staff: available every 14 days in medical practices as of 3 August

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs has issued the following statement:

All public and private school staff, as well as child care and day care staff and caretakers, can obtain free, voluntary coronavirus testing as of Monday, 3 August 2020. At first the tests will be available every 14 days, in an alternating cycle, at contracted medical practices (in particular family physicians) and testing centres until 9 October 2020. The prerequisite is submission of a letter of confirmation from the respective employer, or from the youth office for child day care personnel. The ministries for educational and family affairs will send out a corresponding letter this week. The staff and child care employees can always contact their doctors with any questions or to arrange a testing appointment.

Says Health Minister Karl-Josef Laumann, "Just in time for the commencement of free testing, we and the Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians have devised a simple and unbureaucratic procedure for child care and schools. Confirmation from the employer or youth office is enough to receive testing every 14 days at a contracted medical practice or testing centre. We all know that the coronavirus is still here. We must remain alert. I hope that the free testing will give employees more security so that schools and child care facilities can take one more step toward normalcy. I am very grateful to the doctors who are supporting us with the testing efforts."

### **Overview of pertinent information:**

- Free, voluntary coronavirus testing is possible every 14 days.
- The offer solely applies to all child care facility personnel and all child caretakers, as well as school staff (educational staff, open house staff and other social/educational and non-educational personnel).
- So as not to overwhelm the testing capacities, a weekly alternating cycle of child care and school staff is earmarked.
  - o Testing for day care staff and child care staff: CW 32, CW 34, CW 36, CW 38, CW 40
  - o Testing for school staff: CW 33, CW 35, CW 37, CW 39, CW 41
- A letter of confirmation is required for the test. The authorised parties will receive this from their employer or school administration, or the youth office.
- Ask your doctor if they offer tests, and set up an appointment. The tests can also be conducted in the child care facility or school pending the corresponding arrangements.
- You can obtain information on regional testing services from the medical hotline of the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians at the number 116 117 (not used for making appointments).

***Please send any press requests to the press office of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (telephone 0211 855-3118).***

***This press text is also available on the state government website at <http://www.land.nrw>***

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