

8 March 2021

Concept for the implementation of antigen rapid tests in schools in the municipality of Bremen

1. Basics:

Rapid tests provide clarity about the infection situation at the school's location and are part of the comprehensive protection and testing strategy consisting of various offers of testing and vaccination for the city of Bremen. The antigen rapid test is designed in such a way that it can be implemented very easily by all personnel and even by younger pupils, under the guidance and with the support of the teachers.

The rapid tests procured by the SKB are *SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Test Kits* from the *Lepu Medical* company. This test has already been used in Austrian schools for several weeks now.

The result of an antigen test is a snapshot. The test primarily identifies those persons with a high viral load, i.e. so-called "spreaders". If a large proportion of pupils and staff regularly use these rapid tests, then, in addition to the vaccinations that are being rolled out and the hygiene measures in force, they will create a solid, additional safety net. This significantly supports hygiene measures but does not replace them.

In the case of underage pupils, it is imperative that parents/guardians provide their consent. Important information for parents/guardians and pupils concerning the procedure of the test is also provided on the SKB homepage, with translations into several languages.

All staff members are provided with instruction on using the test before implementing it. The pupils carry out the test under the supervision and guidance of instructed members of staff. The sample is generally taken (by means of a cotton swab in the lower nostril) by the person to be tested (also by the pupils themselves).

The required rapid tests are provided to the schools by the SKB in cooperation with the IB. The use of the tests in the school is documented.

2. Rapid tests for staff

- Participation in the regular rapid testing is a voluntary and free-of-charge offer for all employees at the school to increase the level of protection.
- Participation in the tests is generally possible up to twice a week.
- The testing required and offered as part of the instructions of the Gesundheitsamt health authority will, of course, be continued.
- Before the first implementation, all staff will receive a briefing/instruction from specifically trained personnel in how to use the test.
- If a member of staff tests positive in the antigen test, this employee must immediately go into domestic isolation. To confirm the antigen test result, a PCR test is carried out directly. Until the result of this, the usual, prescribed practice is followed and the Gesundheitsamt is informed in accordance with Section 35 of the Infection Protection Act.

- If the verifying PCR test is negative, the quarantine measures can be lifted.

3. Rapid tests for pupils

- Participation in the regular rapid testing is a voluntary and free-of-charge offer for all students to increase the level of protection.
- In the case of underage pupils, a declaration of consent for participation in the tests must be obtained from the legal guardian.
- The tests are carried out by the pupils, usually in the class group, the learning group or the half-group in the school.
- In primary schools and special needs centres, the rapid tests are generally carried out twice a week at the start of teaching.
- In schools with a half-group system, a weekly test is generally carried out at the beginning of the first day of instruction in the half-group.
- More frequent tests are also possible, e.g. to ensure written exams or important exams and class assessments.
- The tests are carried out under supervision. The person responsible for this will have been instructed in the handling of the test in advance. In order to ensure privacy, deviations from this arrangement are possible in individual cases at the request of the guardian.
- As a rule, no protective materials are provided for the execution of antigen tests in the case of self-application.
- Younger children usually need more assistance during the first testing rounds and are of course instructed by their teachers on how to conduct their own tests.
- This explicitly and exclusively concerns guidance and supervision. Teaching staff are not permitted to carry out the tests on pupils.
- If pupils are unable or only partially able to conduct the tests themselves under guidance because of their physical or mental situation, the test can be administered with the consent of the guardians by medically trained staff at the school or by the guardians in the home.
- The number and results of the tests are documented.

Positive test result:

If a pupil tests positive in the antigen test, they are immediately isolated and the parents or guardians informed. To confirm the antigen test result, a PCR test is immediately arranged via the SKB hotline. Until the result of this test, the usual, prescribed practice is followed and the Gesundheitsamt is informed in accordance with Section 35 of the Infection Protection Act

4. Supplemental information

People who have already had COVID-19 and were infected no longer than six months ago will not be tested with the antigen self-test.