

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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