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To the parents/legal guardians of the pupils attending Theeltalschule Lebach

**Dear Parent/Legal Guardian**

**Rapid antigen testing at schools within the framework of the coronavirus pandemic**

Following our joint efforts over recent weeks, we are delighted that your child can attend school again. Just as in the months before lockdown and school closures, special hygiene rules apply at school with the aim of protecting as much as possible all those at school against infection with coronavirus.

In order to further enhance protection at school we would like to offer everybody present at school (pupils, teachers, and all others undertaking activities at school) **free** voluntary **rapid tests** for coronavirus at school **twice a week**.

In so doing, we aim to detect infections with coronavirus as early as possible, thereby making schools an even safer place and giving as many pupils as possible, teachers, parents and many other people additional protection.

The tests will be carried out at schools on two days a week by **doctors and/or their qualified staff** – in this case in the presence of the doctor. If attending school on these days within the timeframes agreed with the doctors, your son/daughter can participate in the testing. A **nose and throat swab** will be taken from your child for the test. This involves a thin stick being inserted into the nose and removed again shortly after. For younger children it is sometimes possible to reach the nasopharynx (upper part of the throat behind the nose) through the mouth. Sometimes, it is also necessary in the case of older children to carry out a throat swab (only through the mouth).

**Testing at our school:**

Arztpraxis aus der Umgebung

**Testing will take place on the following days of the week:**

Dienstag 11:00, Donnerstag 11:00

The nose and throat swab may be unpleasant, e.g. it can tickle the nose. It is not traumatic and only rarely results in the nose bleeding due to minor injuries in the nose. However, the doctors and their staff are very knowledgeable in this respect and have a lot of experience with the tests. As a result, everything generally goes smoothly, and the children tolerate the swab well.

The **test result is available after approx. 30 minutes**.

If the **test is negative**, your child can continue to attend classes.

If the **test is positive**, there is a suspicion that your child is infected with coronavirus. You will then be advised accordingly by the school. In that case, your child must be collected from school as it may no longer attend classes or indeed school at that point. At the same time, as a school, we must inform the health authorities of your child's positive test in accordance with the provisions of the Infection Protection Act (§7). In the process we must provide the health authorities with certain information, e.g. your name, the name and class of your child, your address and telephone number, and the date of the test, so that the health authorities can contact you. Your child should self-isolate at home (i.e. it should stay at home and not come into contact with others outside until the health authorities have contacted you. You will subsequently receive information from the health authorities on how to proceed. If the health authorities order quarantine and, as a result, you must take care of your child at home, you

may, if applicable, claim child sickness benefit (unpaid leave in accordance with § 45 Subsection 2a SGB V [*German Social Code*]).

### **Consent form**

In order for your child to be able to participate in the testing offer we require you to **complete and sign a consent form**. The consent form is attached to this information letter. In the case of underage children/pupils, it is a mandatory requirement for participation that the parents/legal guardians sign the consent form. Please give the completed consent form to the school if you would like your child to participate in the regular testing.

### **Accompanying your child for the first test**

It would be preferable for pupils up to class 6 if you accompanied your child for the first test. This will also give you an opportunity to ask the doctor any questions you may have. We will notify you when the first test is due to be carried out. **The rules of the sample hygiene plan for schools apply on the school grounds (e.g. observance of social distancing of 1.5 m, wearing of medical masks, etc.), on which we have already advised you.** You will then see how the test is administered and your child will also feel more at ease if you are present the first time.

### **Voluntary participation and opt-out**

The testing offer is **voluntary**. That means that your child can also come to school if it does not participate in the testing. If you decide on participation, it would actually be best if your child is tested at school on both days each week that it attends school. However, if your child should not be tested on one day for some reason, you can call the school the day before to cancel individual test appointments.

However, if, for your part, your child should participate in the testing but does not wish to participate on a particular day at school, following a brief consultation with the doctor, the test will not be carried out! It is possible to discontinue participation at any time. It is very important for us that your child continues unreservedly to feel at ease at school.

### **Cancellation**

The data collected will be treated as confidential, i.e. the data will not be passed on to third parties or, in the case of a positive test, will only be passed on to the health authorities. It is possible to cancel participation in the testing at any time. An informal written notification sent to the school is sufficient. You can find further information on data protection in the forms distributed on this subject.

If as many children and adolescents as possible, but also teachers and other people at school participate in the testing on site, it will be easier for us to succeed in **preventing infections at schools and cases of illness amongst children/parents/teachers**. Therefore, we would be grateful if you agree to your child participating in the testing.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely, Karsten Vitz