

## **Information about the Implementation of Lollipop Rapid Antigen Tests during the Corona Pandemic for Children in Day Care Centers in Saarland**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The state government would like to make a contribution to protecting the health of children, their families, and day care workers and to ensure that care can be continued to be offered by using a voluntary test over the autumn and winter months as part of the fight against the pandemic. The tests are voluntary and can either be carried out by the parents at home or, preferably, in the day care center.

Lollipop antigen tests and nasal antigen tests will be provided free of charge for these testing purposes. The lollipop antigen test is not a test that can be carried out by laypersons; it may only be used by trained personnel. That is why we have provided the nasal antigen test for parental testing, which is a test that can be used by laypersons. Your day care facility will provide you with a link to an explanatory video for this type of testing.

### **Test Procedure**

The lollipop rapid antigen tests are a simple, uncomplicated, and harmless testing procedure, which is very well accepted by young children. An uncomfortable sampling from the nose or the deep throat is thus not necessary. The children can do these tests themselves; younger children can be helped or supervised by the day care worker on site or by another trained person. The simple sampling by sucking on the “saliva collector” can be done in a playful way.

The tests will be carried out two days a week . Your institution will inform you of which days these will be.

The tests are professional tests that are CE certified, checked by the German Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) and the Paul Ehrlich Institute and, of course, are free of harmful substances.

Your child will receive a so-called “saliva collector” in the form of a sponge (“lollipop”) that is put into the mouth so that the saliva can be drawn into the sponge. This lollipop is tasteless and is connected to the actual test cassette after the testing has been completed. The result is then read 10 minutes later.

### **Test Result**

If the result is negative, it can be assumed with great certainty that the child is not infected or contagious. If the test is positive, your child is suspected of being infected with the coronavirus. You will then be informed by the day care center and your child must be picked up.

As an institution, we must comply with the provisions of the Infection Protection Act (Section 6 Para. 1 no. 1 letter t and Section 8 para. 1 No. 7 IfSG) and inform the health authorities about your child’s positive test. We are required to give the health department some information, e.g. your name, the name of your child, your address and telephone number, and the date of the test, so that the health department can contact you.

Your child should go into quarantine at home until the health department contacts you (i.e. they should stay at home and have no outside contact or contact with other people). You will then receive information from the health department on how to proceed.

In general, an additional test (PCR test) will be performed to confirm the result. If the health department orders a quarantine and you therefore have to look after your child at home, you may be entitled to child sickness benefit (unpaid leave according to Section 45 Para. 2a SGB V) or to compensation for loss of earnings according to the Infection Protection Act.

### **Declaration of Consent**

The testing method used has practically no risks and is particularly well suited for children. Especially when testing is playfully incorporated into the daily routine, it is very well received by children. In order to give your consent to your child's participation in the tests described, please fill out and sign the Declaration of Consent form and hand it in at the day care center. You may revoke your consent at any time. If your child refuses to suck the test swab, they will of course not be forced to comply and the test will simply be waived on this test day!

If you choose not to take part in this gentle lollipop testing procedure in the day care center, you have the option of using the testing procedures at a testing center or testing at home using a certified layperson self-test. Then you have to provide proof of this with a written self-declaration.

However, this layperson self-test is currently only available in the form of the "nose test," which is more uncomfortable for younger children. These tests are approved as lay tests for use at home.

If there is no participation in the regular twice-weekly tests, there is a risk that the health department will have to impose a quarantine in the event of an infection in the day care center. By participating in this testing offer, you can help prevent larger outbreaks of infection in the day care center and thus ensure that the childcare can continue to be offered.

Many thanks for your cooperation