

Kantonaler Krisenstab, Oristalstrasse 100, 4410 Liestal

To parents and legal guardians

Liestal, 10 February 2021

## **COVID-19 Test Series (Case Finding) at School**

Dear Parents/Guardians

The Corona pandemic continues. Schools are unfortunately also affected by the virus again and again. At schools, people regularly come together in groups and so the virus can spread. Due to Corona outbreaks, entire schools have been closed and students, their families and teachers have been quarantined.

Scientific studies show that, among other things, people without recognizable symptoms contribute to the spread of the virus. In addition, several mutated COVID-19 viruses have now been confirmed in the canton of Basel-Landschaft. Systematic and broad testing is required so that infected people can be identified and isolated.

At the beginning of February, the canton already started the "Case Finding Programme" at selected schools. Now systematic broad testing is being extended to all schools in the canton

In the Case Finding Programme, pupils and teachers are tested for the coronavirus once a week. Participation is absolutely voluntary. If your child does not participate in the project, there will be no impact.

The test procedure is based on a saliva sample (no nose-throat smear), which can be collected completely painlessly: the child rinses with a saline solution (0.9% NaCl) and spits it into a tube.

The tests are carried out once a week during class and are completely anonymized. The sample tubes of each school class are brought together (so-called pooling) and only given the name of the participating school and an identification number. It is therefore not possible to identify individual children in the pool.

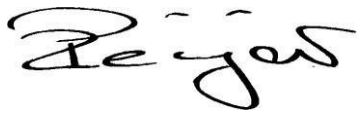
The pool samples are tested with high sensitivity PCR analysis. The samples are evaluated approx. 6 to 10 hours after receipt in the laboratory.

The school will then be informed of the test results of the pool samples by email. You will receive the results from your child's class teacher. In case of a positive pool sample, the affected children/teachers must be tested individually on the same day or the following day. The second test is mandatory and will be carried out at the Corona testing centre Feldreben in Muttenz or at one of the external testing centres. In this case, a normal registration into the patient administration system will be necessary.

Participation in the Case Finding Programme is free of charge for you. We would be very grateful if you would agree to participate and thank you for your support in dealing with the Corona pandemic.

If you have any further questions about the programme, please contact your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,



Patrik Reiniger  
Head of Cantonal Crisis Team



Jürg Sommer  
Head of Health Department