Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

Vienna, 12 May 2021

Subject: COVID test passport[1] to accompany self-tests in schools as an "entry ticket" for all school pupils aged 10 and over

Dear Parents and Guardians,
Dear Pupils,

Looking at the near future, I feel a sense of optimism: the vaccine rollout is progressing, infection rates in Austria are falling daily, all pupils will finally be able to attend school every day from Monday 17 May 2021 – and we are all glad that COVID-19 restrictions are steadily being eased.

While restrictions are being lifted, important measures will of course still be in place to protect us all from the virus. This also means that regular self-testing at schools will remain the core requirement for attending school after 17 May – **with a major new benefit for you:**

From new week, all pupils who test negative will receive valid proof of their test result. This proof can be presented at restaurants and hairdressers, for example, or anywhere where everyone over the age of 10 is required to present a negative test result. In addition, it is recommended that school children also carry a pupil ID card, travel pass or similar when visiting a restaurant.

Under the current legal regulations, **school pupils under the age of 10 do not have to provide any proof** of a negative test. For these pupils and their families, the COVID test passport is a voluntary document that can be used until the end of the school year.

How the COVID test passport works

All pupils will receive a COVID test passport at school next week (from 17 May). The passport is in fold-out format and lists the weeks until the end of the school year, with spaces for three self-tests per week (on Monday, Wednesday and Friday). Whenever they test negative after taking a self-test, pupils receive a sticker from their school and stick this in the relevant space for that week. Since general school testing takes place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before lessons start, every pupil who regularly self-tests using the COVID test passport should be able to present valid proof of a negative test result from Monday through to Sunday morning. As

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[1] "Corona-Testpass"

Eltern-Schüler/innenbrief des Herrn Bundesministers zur Verwendung des Corona-Testpasses: Englisch

is the case with the antigen tests available in testing centres or pharmacies, a negative test result is **valid for 48 hours from the time of issue**.

What does the COVID test passport look like?
Please visit www.bmbwf.gv.at/coronatestpass to see an image of the passport that school pupils will receive next week.
I would like to make a comment about the design of the passport: to appeal to younger pupils, the COVID test passport features a brave "COVID ninja" in order to add a fun touch to these very important tests in the fight against the virus. I would ask older pupils to take the "ninja" in the humorous spirit in which it was intended. In combination with the COVID test passport, it has many benefits for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Heinz Fassmann
Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research