

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your child has a big day ahead of them in September – their first day at school. I am sure you are already wondering how your child will start the school year this autumn and to what extent the coronavirus might affect everyday school life. It is of great personal importance to me that you and your child can begin this new phase in their life with peace of mind and anticipation. I am therefore writing this letter to provide you with some initial information about the start of the school year.

None of us can say for sure what the situation will be like in the autumn. What I can assure you, however, is that – working closely with the schools – we have all learned a great deal in recent months about how to deal with the coronavirus. In the autumn, your child will meet teachers who have been braving this once-in-a-century pandemic for over a year and have been educating and supporting their pupils with great commitment and dedication.

In August, the Education Ministry will be providing schools with a package of measures that will enable each school to take the best-possible precautions to protect itself from COVID-19 in the 2021/22 school year. It has already been confirmed that all pupils will receive self-tests to carry out at school in the first two weeks of the school year. To keep schools safe when they reopen after the summer holidays, testing will be done in the first two weeks on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Testing is well established at all schools. Your child's teachers will provide you with more information about the procedures at the beginning of the school year, and you can also visit www.bmbwf.gv.at/selbsttest to view video guides that show you exactly how the tests will be carried out.

I hope that you and your child have an enjoyable summer and a good start to the school year.

Yours sincerely,



Heinz Fassmann
Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research