

Schule nach den Semesterferien: „Schichtbetrieb“ für alle Schülerinnen und Schüler in Mittelschulen, der AHS-Unterstufe und in Polytechnischen Schulen auf Basis von „Eintritts“-Selbsttests - Englisch

 **Bundesministerium**
Bildung, Wissenschaft
und Forschung

bmbwf.gv.at

Prof. Heinz Fassmann
Federal Minister

Minoritenplatz 5, 1010 Vienna

Vienna, 4 February 2021

School after the semester break: ‘shift system’ for all pupils in new secondary schools¹, the lower levels of academic secondary schools² and pre-vocational schools³ based on self-administered ‘entry’ tests

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First of all, I am pleased to be able to share some very good news with you about school operations after the semester break: we are finally able to offer our school pupils regular face-to-face teaching again – if not for five days a week, then at least for two days.

Shift system with fixed days for face-to-face teaching and distance learning

The shift system that we are introducing will be staggered in the same way across Austria. Classes will be divided into two groups: pupils in Group A will attend school on Monday and Tuesday, while pupils in Group B will be taught face-to-face on Wednesday and Thursday. Both groups will be taught by distance learning on Friday. The following week, Group B will then begin on Monday.

Positive feedback on self-administered tests from pupils

Many school pupils have already successfully carried out the self-administered antigen tests at school. I have received very positive feedback about these tests from pupils as well as from their parents and guardians – in particular, it was often mentioned how easy and straightforward it is to use the tests. These first few ‘test’ weeks have been a ‘warm-up’, if you like, for the upcoming tests in schools.

Self-administered ‘entry’ tests to ensure safe face-to-face teaching

With pupils returning to face-to-face education for a few days a week, we all share a responsibility to do everything we can to ensure that schools remain as safe as possible

¹ Neue Mittelschulen

² AHS-Unterstufe

³ Polytechnische Schulen

Schule nach den Semesterferien: „Schichtbetrieb“ für alle Schülerinnen und Schüler in Mittelschulen, der AHS-Unterstufe und in Polytechnischen Schulen auf Basis von „Eintritts“-Selbsttests - Englisch

during the current pandemic. In terms of the shift system, this means that pupils can only take part in face-to-face lessons if they continue to take self-administered antigen tests regularly. The tests used in future will be exactly the same as the self-administered tests already used previously by school pupils.

Testing on Mondays and Wednesdays at the start of the school day

The self-administered tests will be carried out in school before lessons start. Pupils in Group A will take the test on Monday and pupils in Group B on Wednesday. Many pupils have already taken the test at school and know how it works. Testing at school will be closely supervised by teachers.

Information about the self-administered test and declaration of consent for 10 to 14 year olds

As before, you can find all the important information about self-administered antigen tests at schools on the website www.bmbwf.gv.at/selbsttest. You are probably already familiar with the video guide and one-page instruction sheet on how to take the test. As usual, the [declaration of consent](#) can also be downloaded (in a number of different languages) from the above website. If you have not yet returned this form to your school, please send it to the school by the morning of the first day of school after the semester break.

We need everyone's help to keep schools safe

The pandemic is not yet over. Regular self-administered tests at school will finally enable our children and young people to do what they so urgently need: to attend “their” school, meet their friends and live their everyday lives. Without these tests, face-to-face teaching – albeit in shifts – would still not be possible. I am therefore asking for your understanding that – in order to protect everyone – the tests are a compulsory requirement for attending school in the shift system. Any pupils who are not tested will not be permitted to attend school. They will be sent work by the teachers at their school, but will not receive regular teaching support.

Yours sincerely,



Heinz Fassmann
Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research