

Vienna, 18 June 2021

## **Staying safe over the summer: self-tests in the holidays, vaccinations available for children and young people**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Dear Pupils,

After what has been a difficult year for us all, the summer holidays are now just around the corner. The shadow that Covid has cast over us in recent months is becoming smaller: more and more people have been vaccinated, regular testing has become a normal part of life, and sunny days are playing their part by encouraging us to socialise outdoors. It is now time to finally gather strength and 'look on the bright side of life'. However, we must remain aware that Covid hasn't gone away.

It is important to me that you all enjoy a safe summer – which will also help to ensure a successful return to school in the autumn. To enable this to happen, I would like to let you know about two important initiatives for the holidays:

### **Five self-tests for every school pupil for the summer months**

In addition to the tests already offered by the federal government, states and municipalities, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research will be providing every school pupil with five self-tests for the summer months. Pupils will receive these tests at school in the last week before the summer holidays, along with some information for them to read to encourage them to test. Please use these tests – for instance before visiting relatives, before meeting friends or if you feel ill. Regular testing helps us all to protect each other and our new-found freedom.

**Vaccinations available for over-12s in the summer holidays**

The BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine has been approved in Austria for use in children over 12. The vaccination is recommended by both the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Austrian Society of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. It is an additional option in the fight against the pandemic. For details of the free Covid vaccinations available and to register for a vaccination in your federal state, please visit <https://www.oesterreich-impft.at/impfanmeldung/>.

Let's work together to ensure a safe summer and a safe return to school!

Yours sincerely,  
Heinz Fassmann

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heinz Fassmann" with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Heinz Fassmann  
Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research