

SAXON STATE MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
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To students  
aged 12 and over,  
and their parents, at public  
and independent schools  
in the Free State of Saxony

Dresden, August 2021

## **Offer of voluntary vaccination against coronavirus SARS-CoV-2**

Dear students and parents,

Lessons are for school, not for children's rooms. Learning and being together in the classroom is our top priority – because it's about children's future prospects and ensuring they have a healthy environment to grow up in. To make this possible, protective measures will once again be necessary during the 2021/2022 school year.

There are no plans to completely close schools – even if infection numbers rise. If, however, hospitals run out of bed capacities, face-to-face learning will have to be restricted, which would again mean a case of alternating class attendance at your school.

We know from scientific studies that children and adolescents are not driving transmission in this pandemic, and are less at risk from the virus than adults are. But schools are not totally immune from infection, which is why it is important to keep being very careful.

We are keeping a close eye on the situation – at every single school, every day. In the event of a local outbreak at your school, we will take immediate measures in consultation with your school's administration. These measures may also include a short-term home-learning order for the affected school.

Progress with the vaccine rollout will hopefully help prevent this from happening. Vaccination is and remains the most effective means of protection against COVID-19. The more people who protect themselves across every region of Saxony, the safer normal everyday life will be at your school.

The AHA+L (physical distancing, hygiene, mask-wearing + ventilation) rules and weekly testing – depending on incidence rate – are currently still essential. Similar to the rules applicable in other areas of life, those who have recovered



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**Transport access:**  
Accessible via tram lines 3, 7, 8

For information on access for electronically signed and encrypted electronic documents, please visit [www.smk.sachsen.de/kontakt.htm](http://www.smk.sachsen.de/kontakt.htm)

from, or been vaccinated against, COVID-19 will not be required to take a test when entering school grounds.

The Standing Committee on Vaccination (Ständige Impfkommision) now also recommends that school students aged 12 and over be vaccinated against coronavirus-SARS-CoV-2. Vaccination is of course free and voluntary, and will be in the form of the BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines.

Children and adolescents have particularly had to bear a comparatively large burden in recent months, which is why we want to facilitate rapid on-site vaccination for you, as both students and parents – particularly in areas where vaccination centres are not easily accessible for everyone.

Through our co-operation with the German Red Cross (DRK), we are able to provide vaccinations at schools in the regional administrative districts. A DRK mobile vaccination team will be available daily in every district, with plans for there to be vaccination appointments on weekday mornings and afternoons at selected hub schools. If more than 80 people register their interest in vaccination at your school, on-site vaccination directly at your school will be considered. Please understand that the DRK teams are deployed based on the chronological order of school registrations received. DRK staff will utilise their capacities to their full extent to facilitate vaccinations for everyone.

The notices enclosed contain further information.

Please take the time to read through the pros and cons together, perhaps using the COVID-19 brochure published by the Ministry of Social Affairs for children and adolescents. Whether or not you wish to take up the offer of vaccination at a school is your decision. In Dresden, Chemnitz and Leipzig, you can also take up the offers available at vaccination centres, paediatricians' clinics and GP clinics.

We need your help to ensure optimum planning of DRK mobile vaccination team deployment. The survey of how many people wish to receive their vaccination through these mobile teams will be run by the school until 8 September 2021. The enclosed anonymous survey form may be used for this. On 8 September 2021, the schools will then report the number of people willing to be vaccinated to the Saxon State Office for Schooling and Education. Late registrations may be submitted until 15 September 2021.

The pandemic has seen particularly tough restrictions and burdens imposed on you, as both students and parents. Having a large number of vaccinated people in and around your school can finally restore a sense of normality to school life, and certainly also an element of levity and ease. We thank everyone who has supported us in our efforts to ensure safe face-to-face learning – with as few restrictions as possible – and who has protected themselves and others.

Kind regards,

Petra Köpping  
Saxon State Minister for Social Affairs  
and Social Cohesion

Christian Piwarz  
Saxon State Minister  
for Education and Culture