

Information about the PCR pool test ("lollipop test")

Preparation and materials

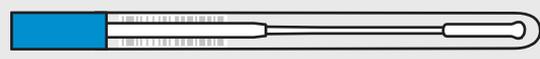
Each child is issued two swabs with which to collect a saliva sample:

One for the **PCR pool test**



The **pool swab** is packed and recognizable by the predetermined breaking point.

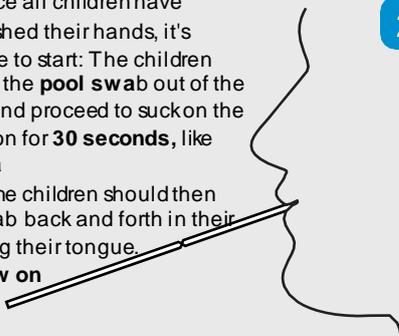
One for the **PCR individual test**



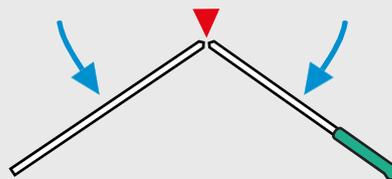
The **single swab** is inside the transport tube provided.

Administering the "lollipop test" - collecting the saliva samples

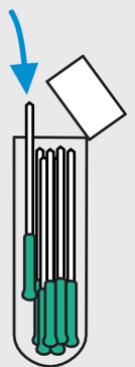
1 Once all children have washed their hands, it's time to start: The children will first take the **pool swab** out of the packaging and proceed to suck on the cotton portion for **30 seconds**, like sucking on a "lollipop". The children should then push the swab back and forth in their mouths using their tongue. **Do not chew on the swab!**



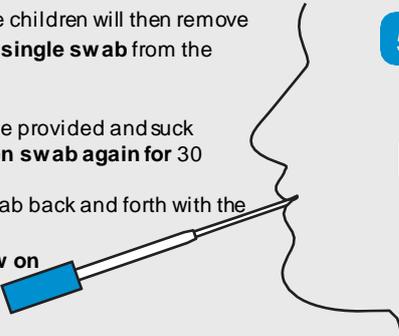
2 Now break off the swab for the PCR pool test at the predetermined breaking point.



3 The samples collected from all students in a class/group are pooled in a collection tube with the cotton swab facing down. They form the so-called "pool" (**pool sample**).



4 The children will then remove the **single swab** from the transport tube provided and suck on the **cotton swab again for 30 seconds**. Move the swab back and forth with the tongue. **Do not chew on the swab!**



5 The swab for the **individual sample** is returned to the personal transport tube. This personal transport tube is then sealed.



Laboratory analysis of the saliva samples

The PCR method is used for laboratory analysis of the saliva samples. The results are very accurate and allow identification of infections at a very early stage. Regular testing makes it possible to detect infected children before they become contagious for other people.



Test results

The results of the **pool sample** analysis are normally available by 7 p.m. on the evening of the test day. The children's legal guardians will be informed electronically via e-mail.

If the PCR pool test result is negative:

This means that all children in the class/group tested negative. In that case, no child was found to be infected with SARS-CoV-2. In that case there will be regular classes.

If the PCR pool test result is positive:

This means that at least one child in the class/group tested positive. In that case the laboratory will proceed to analyze all of the class's/group's individual samples overnight.

If a child's individual PCR test result is negative:
The child is allowed to attend classes the next day.

If a child's individual PCR test result is positive:
The infected child is not allowed to attend classes and will be required to remain at home in domestic isolation. The local health department will contact the infected child's parent or legal guardian.

The (positive or negative) personal test results from the **individual sample** analysis is usually available by 6 a.m. on the morning of the following day before classes start. The children's legal guardians will be informed electronically via e-mail.

Answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ)

What are PCR pool tests ("lollipop")

The so-called "lollipop test" is a saliva test that is very easy to administer. Both the pool samples collected from the class/group and the personal samples collected from the individual students are analyzed in the laboratory using PCR procedures.

What are the advantages of PCR pool

Even though the test results are not immediately available, the high sensitivity of these tests ensures the reliable detection of infections at a very early stage. Regular, highly sensitive testing makes it possible to detect infections even before the affected child becomes contagious for other people.

What happens in case of a negative PCR pool test result?

If a pool has tested negative, the laboratory will notify the children's parents or legal guardians on the evening of the day of testing. In that case, every tested child in the pool will be allowed to attend class the next school day.

What happens in case of a "positive" PCR pool test

If a pool has tested "positive", the laboratory will notify the children's parents or legal guardians on the evening of the day of testing. The lab will in that case analyze the students' individual personal samples overnight.

Health

If an individual child has tested positive, the local health department will contact that child's parent or guardian. This website provides a list of local [health departments](#):



<https://gesundheitsaemter.info/gesundheitsaemter-in->

What to do in case of a positive PCR individual test

If the result of an individual sample is found to be positive, the laboratory will notify the affected child's parent or legal guardian the morning following the test day and advise them that their child has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection. The affected student will not be allowed to attend class and will be required to stay at home. The local health department will contact the infected child's parent or legal guardian.

Is sucking on the swabs harmful to health?

No. The swabs used do not contain any harmful substances. Sucking on the swabs will not release any substances to the user. For more information please go to www.km.bayern.de/pooltests.

Why is it still mandatory to observe the Corona safety rules even if the test results were negative?

The PCR pool tests are only one component. Although the results are very reliable, they are not available until the evening of the test day. In combination with the other hygiene measures in place, PCR pool testing is an important tool to help increase safety in schools.

The Corona safety rules:

- Keep your distance from others
- Cover your mouth and nose
- Wash your hands frequently
- Sneeze or cough only into the crook of your arm

Further information on the PCR pool test

- [How-to videos](#)
- [Information about the PCR pool test in different languages](#)
- [More "Frequently Asked Questions" \(FAQ\) and answers](#)



<https://www.km.bayern.de/pooltests>



www.km.bayern.de/coronavirus-faq

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