



Gaesdonck Parents' Letter

No. 14-2021/22

15.01.2022

Dear Gaesdonckers,

The first school week of the new year is behind us and fortunately we can report that, at least from a school and pedagogical perspective, everything is going quite well.

At the same time - as was to be expected - Omikron also arrived at Gaesdonck after the Christmas holidays.

In the last few days, some classes have already been decimated by positive test results or quarantine orders from the health authorities. And also in the boarding houses we had two cases with a positive test result in the last few days, so that we have set up a quarantine for individual students in two houses for observation.

For the moment, it looks as if the measures taken are quite effective. All other test results from contacts in the boarding houses as well as in class have so far remained negative.

Our most important weapons in the fight against the virus remain the highest possible vaccination rate, also among younger pupils, consistent wearing of masks, ventilation of the rooms and always keeping our distance and showing mutual consideration.

What do I do when...?

At the same time, we have revised our internal procedures here at the Gaesdonck in light of the current developments over the last few weeks. This is not always easy, as the authorities and ministries involved are currently sending slightly different signals with regard to the handling of isolation or quarantine of first or second degree contacts. We also see that all those involved are currently, understandably, constantly looking to Berlin, where these issues are also being discussed on a daily basis. (The half-life of the following information could therefore be quite limited...)

In view of the currently valid Corona Test and Quarantine Ordinance of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia as of 12 January 2022, we currently handle possible cases as follows:



Testing, testing, testing...
Controlled arrival at the boarding school after the Christmas holidays

a) Your child had contact with a contact person of a person who was tested positive

In this case, the CoronaTestQuarantineVO does not specify. We ask parents of external and day pupils to contact the school office to discuss the individual case. We may ask you to leave your child at home for a day in order to observe him/her and test him/her again before the next school day. For internal students, the responsible boarding house paedagoge will take over the coordination.

b) Your child has had contact with a person who tested positive.

In this case, the CoronaTestQuarantineVO provides for a shortened quarantine of 5 days for non-boostered schoolchildren. However, in our experience, the authorities sometimes decide otherwise. As a rule, you will be contacted by the public health department. However, as this can take a few days in practice, we also ask you to contact the school office. For boarding students, the infirmary takes over the coordination together with the responsible boarding house paedagoge.

During these 5 days, affected classes and boarding houses are tested on a daily basis.

c) Your child shows symptoms typical of Covid-19

Attendance at school is not possible! From the day after the report, we will organise – according to the respective subject teacher – if necessary, an online connection to the lessons. After the symptoms have subsided and the PoC test is negative, normal attendance at lessons is again possible on the following day. For boarding pupils, the infirmary and the responsible boarding house paedagoge will take care of the coordination.

d) Your child has a positive PoC test result

School attendance is not possible! External and day boarding pupils are picked up by their parents. The parents take over the further steps (PCR test; if necessary, report to the health office, etc.).

Boarding students are either picked up or go to the quarantine station on Blumenstraße. In this case, the infirmary takes care over all further steps (care and catering, PCR test, etc.). If the PCR test is positive, the boarding school management reports the case to the health authorities.

In all cases, the further procedure is carried out according to the instructions of the respective health authority. From the day following the notification, we organise – according to the respective subject teacher – if necessary, a connection to the lessons.

Affected classes and households are tested daily for 5 days.

Choice of campus offerings for the second semester

Back to "real" life: Next week, the selection of the campus activities for the second school semester 2021/22 are coming up. By the way, it is also worth a look for external students. As always, some campus offerings are open to all forms of attendance!

Due to timetable and room plan changes, the courses offered may differ from the printed campus booklet! Some courses will take place on other days of the week, will be cancelled or new courses will be added. You will find an updated overview on our homepage from next week.

Changed registration procedure!

As always, registration is via our homepage: www.gaesdonck.de/campusangebote.

Registration window is the period from **19.01.-23.01.2022 (from 18.00 to 18.00 hrs.)**

For the course selection, every application received during this period will be considered equally. So it is no longer "first come, first served!". Should the demand for individual courses exceed the number of places available, preference will be given to students who were not considered in the last round. In all other cases, the decision is made by drawing lots.

Important (1): Even if no change of course is planned, it is necessary to re-register for the second semester!

Important (2): When registering, please be sure to enter an e-mail address that you also access (i.e. usually not the e-mail address of the pupil at Gaesdonck).

Registrations and cancellations will be made by 27.01.2022 at the latest by e-mail to the e-mail address given at registration. The new courses will start from 31.01.2022. The current courses will generally take place until 27.01.2022, deviations in individual cases are possible.

We wish all students much enjoyment and success in the second half of the year with this unusually varied programme of educational and recreational activities, which is unparalleled, at least in the surrounding area, but also in other boarding schools.

Arrival at the boarding school weekend

Boarding students who have left the house over the boarding school weekend will return to campus tomorrow, Sunday, at the usual times. In order to return to the boarding houses, all students, even those who have been fully vaccinated or have recovered, must again have a negative **rapid antigen test**, which must not have been taken more than 24h ago.

However, the infirmary is not available for arrival tests during the boarding school weekend. We kindly ask you to take such a **test on your own responsibility before arrival** (citizenship test) and to show the certificate to the boarding school teacher on duty immediately upon arrival.

If, in justified exceptional cases, it is not possible to organise a citizenship test, returning students shall report to the boarding school teacher on duty immediately upon entering the house in order to have a rapid antigen test carried out there. Until the results are available, contact with other students must be avoided at all costs.

Bus transport

With the new year, one provider for our school bus service has also changed. We are pleased to have won back a long-standing partner from the region, the Scholten company, to operate the "Bus 3" routes. This also means that the emergency number for this bus has changed. If a bus is more than 10 minutes overdue, please call **0173 53 79 446** (Stiehl company; buses 1 and 2) or **02801 4023** (Scholten company; bus 3).

The timetable remains unchanged. The Corona special timetable continues to apply. Download [here](#).

We are looking forward to this new year 2022 together with you, but above all, of course, with your children. We will also survive this Corona winter and, if necessary, the next one and the one after that. Together we can do it!

Yours sincerely from the Gaesdonck Campus

Dr Markus Oberdörster
Director
School

Sabine Schleede-Schmalz
Headmistress

Michael Gysbers
Head of Boarding