

# Handling of cold/illness symptoms in children and adolescents in kindergarten and schools in Rhineland-Palatinate (Rheinland-Pfalz)

## Guidelines for parents, legal guardians and staff

As before the Corona pandemic, children who are clearly ill should not be brought to kindergarten or school. In general, the parents are still responsible for making the assessment on whether the child is sick. If children are brought to the facility when obviously ill or become ill while attending kindergarten, nursery school or school, the institution may arrange for the collection of the child.

### Procedure to follow in the case of the occurrence of symptoms:

For children, **who are only mildly infected and without significant impairment of their general condition** or who only have mild symptoms (e.g. sniffles, slight cough, sore throat) or any known anamnestic symptoms (e.g. hay fever, pollen allergy) are not required to stay home from kindergarten or school.

Those **infected with severe symptoms and significant impairment of their general condition** (symptoms such as coughing, sore throat, high temperature) must not attend kindergarten or school. If there are no further indications, (e.g. no known contact to a confirmed case or no cases of COVID-19 among the adults in the family) they may wait for recovery as with other illnesses. Depending on the condition of their child, parents may decide to contact the doctor via telephone.

Should the parents seek medical advice, the doctor treating the patient will decide whether to carry out a test for SARS-CoV-2.

### **Children with noticeable symptoms or symptoms indicating COVID-19** such as:

- Fever ( $\geq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  in young children,  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  in school children) **and/or**
- Coughing (not caused by a chronic illness) **and/or**
- Disturbance of sense of smell and/or taste
- Acute symptoms of a respiratory disease/illness of any severity **and** contact with someone who confirmed positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days before falling ill.

**may not enter the facility under any circumstances** and should be brought to a doctor.

The doctor will then decide whether testing for SARS-CoV-2 is recommended and which criteria should be followed when reentering the kindergarten or school.

# Readmission to participate in the kindergarten or school

## In general:

Guidelines and rules from the health authorities must always be given priority.

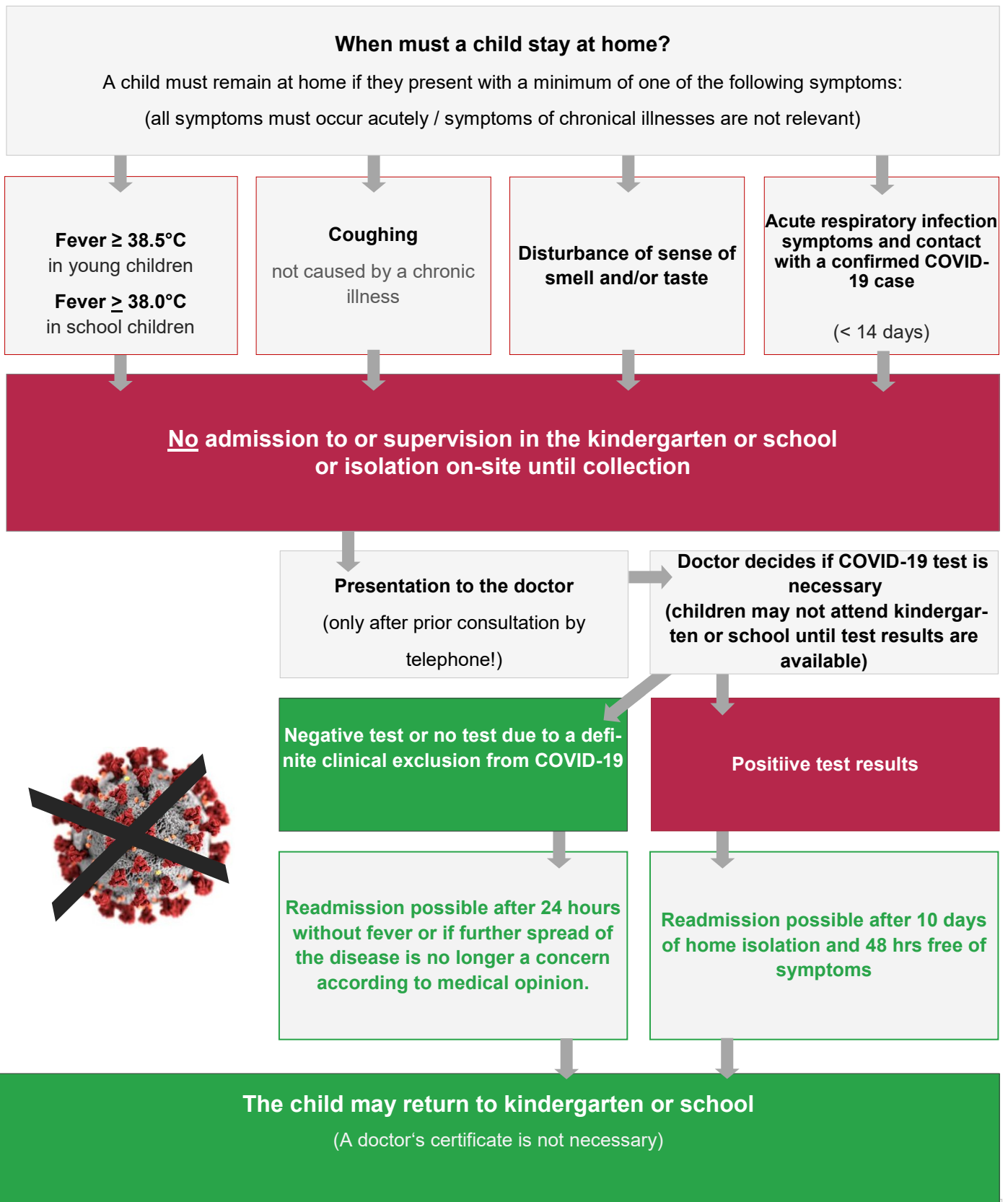
Neither a negative virus identification nor a doctor's certificate are necessary to reauthorize a visit to a facility.

- Should the child have had no contact with a doctor, the child or adolescent must be fever free for a minimum of 24 hrs and be in good general condition before they may return to the kindergarten or school.
- Should the parents seek medical advice, the doctor treating the patient will decide whether to carry out a SARS-CoV-2 test.
- Should a test be carried out, the children or adolescents must remain at home at least until they have received the results of the test.
- If the **test results are negative**, the conditions for readmission apply as above (no fever for a minimum of 24 hrs. & good general health)
- If the **test results are positive**, the child or adolescent must be symptom-free for a minimum of 48 hrs. and may return to kindergarten or school no earlier than 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
- Should a sibling or parent encounter a confirmed case, only the person, who made contact must remain at home. This does not apply the other family members, as long as this person does not develop any symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19.
- Siblings who are healthy may attend kindergarten or school without restrictions if they are not subject to quarantine by the health authorities.

These recommendations were compiled by the MSAGD (DE: Ministerium für Soziales, Arbeit, Gesundheit und Demografie. EN: Ministry of Social Affairs, Labor, Health and Demography) in coordination with the State Association of Child and Adolescent Physicians (Landesvorstand des Berufsverbandes der Kinder- und Jugendärzte e. V., BVKJ) and the Ministry of Education in Rhineland Pfalz (Ministerium für Bildung).

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In the case of general symptoms (banal infection) without impairment of the person's general condition or for those with only mild symptoms (e.g. common cold, slight cough, sore throat) or in the case of any known symptoms (e.g. hay fever, pollen allergy), it is possible for the child to attend kindergarten or school.