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To all
Parents and guardians

Schaffhausen, 04th september 2020

Autumn and winter seasons – rules of conduct facing "normal" colds and, on the other hand, typical symptoms of coronavirus

Dear parents and guardians

As the autumn and winter seasons approach and the temperatures drop, the incidence of colds and flu (influenza) increases among children and adults. Especially in times of the coronavirus, it is not always easy to distinguish between the common cold or influenza and the virus. According to the public health department, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Children and teenagers with coughs and colds and especially with fever (guideline: from 38.3°C) must stay at home and are not allowed to go back to school until they have been without symptoms for 24 hours. A simple cold is not yet considered an acute respiratory infection. The decisive factor is whether the signs or symptoms of the disease have increased in the previous days. Children with chronic asthma or allergic rhinitis are excluded. This should be communicated and attested by the treating physician beforehand.
2. If children or teenagers show additional complaints such as sore throats, shortness of breath with or without fever, feverish feeling or muscle pain and/or sudden loss of sense of smell and/or taste, they must remain at home in isolation. The parents contact the treating pediatrician, or the family doctor, or the Corona Hotline to determine the further procedure. According to the public health department, Corona tests are currently not indicated for children under 12 years of age.

Students who show symptoms of illness at school (**simple cold symptoms are not included!**) are sent home by the teacher (for children up to and including 2nd primary class, only after having consulted with the parents), or have to be picked up by a parent as soon as possible, brought home (avoiding public transport) and reported to the treating pediatrician or family doctor.

We are aware that the question on what is “just” a cold, is not easy to answer. Therefore, we depend very much on you, dear parents and guardians. Please evaluate the state of health of your child critically and consider whether he or she can go to school or not. Schools depend on a trustful cooperation with you. It will be part of everyday school life that even children with a slight cold attend school. This must be possible after a critical examination of the above-mentioned symptoms and in compliance with the measures of hygiene.

The cantonal Corona Hotline is available to answer your questions:

Tel.: +41 52 632 70 01; e-mail: corona@sh.ch

Operating hours: Daily 08:00 a.m. to 06:00 p.m. (08:00 to 18:00)

Constantly updated information can be found on the [website of the “Gesundheitsamt” \(= Health Department\)](#) and on the [“Coronavirus und Schule” \(= Coronavirus and School\) website.](#)

For the well-being of your child and of the entire school, please follow these rules of conduct. We thank you for your cooperation and wish you and your family good health.

Friendly greetings

Department of Primary School and
Secondary School - level I

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Marxer".

Ruth Marxer, director in charge