

Factsheet of Acute Testing in Ciao Corona Schools



Who has been tested?

- 14 Schools
- 67 Classes
- 641 School children (age 6-16 years)
- 66 Teachers

When were the tests done?

Testing took place at selected schools in early December 2020. The tests were repeated after one week (week 1, week 2).

What has been tested?

Acute virus detection by PCR test and rapid antigen test

◀ Rapid antigen test

A rapid antigen test is used to detect an acute viral infection. A result is available within 15-20 minutes.



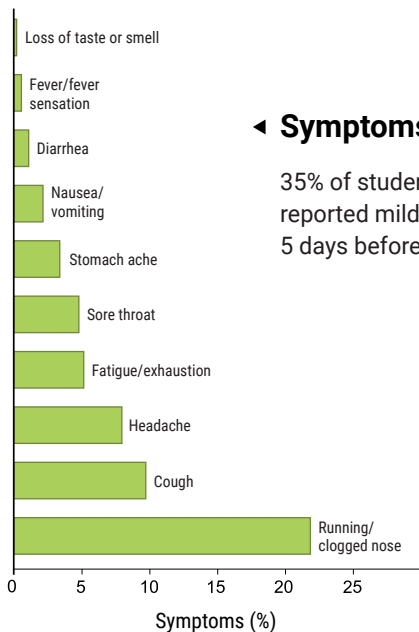
PCR Test ▶

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is used to amplify the genetic material of viruses and examine it for an active viral infection. The samples are examined in a specialized laboratory. A result is available within 1-2 days.



◀ Symptoms

35% of students and 8% of teachers reported mild symptoms in the last 5 days before the first examination.

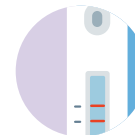


Test results



PCR test

Week 1	Week 2
1 positive	0 positive



Antigen rapid test

Week 1	Week 2
9 positive	0 positive

➔ On test repetition, all tests were negative.

Conclusion

Acute corona case numbers in the schools were minimal despite a high population affected during the 2nd wave. Despite this, there was no increase in acute viral infections in the investigated schools. The measures taken by the schools and the guidelines issued by the cantonal health authorities seem to make sense.

The false positive rapid antigen tests are in line with expectations. Positive rapid antigen tests should always be confirmed by PCR. More experience is needed before these rapid antigen tests can be used in schools.