



Vienna, September 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First of all, we would like to thank you – along with your children and the teachers at your child’s school – for coming together to meet the challenges of the past one and a half years.

Our most important common goal over the coming school year is to enable all children to carry on attending ‘their’ school despite this once-in-a-century pandemic. To achieve this goal, we will use regular testing – in particular in the first three weeks of the school year – to re-establish a comprehensive safety net at schools.

The Covid vaccination offers the best protection against the virus and thus for our society, and helps to keep schools safe. The more people are vaccinated, the better the protection and the greater our social ‘freedom’.

After the challenges and demands of the last school year, this freedom is exactly what children need – along with the opportunities provided by their school for them to learn together.

In the current phase of the pandemic, we as adults can support our children – especially those under 12 – by taking advantage of the opportunity to be vaccinated against Covid.

Two vaccines (Moderna’s Spikevax and BioNTech/Pfizer’s Comirnaty) have already been approved for use in children over 12. They have been carefully studied by the European Medical Agency (EMA) and are considered to be safe and effective. Although children and young people are less likely than adults to become severely ill from COVID-19, they are just as infectious.

Easily accessible vaccination services, including walk-in clinics, can be found in all of Austria’s federal states. More information about how you – and possibly also your child/children – can get the vaccine is available in your federal state or at [www.oesterreich-impft.at](http://www.oesterreich-impft.at). You can visit [www.sichereschule.at](http://www.sichereschule.at), for example, to find your nearest vaccination centre for children and young people.

Gemeinsamer Brief zum Schulstart des Herrn Bundesministers mit Vertretern des Elternbeirates -  
Englisch

Children/young people under 14 must be accompanied to their vaccination by a parent and need their parent's permission to be vaccinated. If they are over 14, they can decide for themselves.

All of us who can play a part in protecting our children and young people should do so if we can. Most of us are able to be vaccinated.

We look forward to starting the new school year together and hope that you and your child/children have a happy and successful school year in 2021/22.

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Federal Minister for Education, Science  
and Research

Bernhard Baier  
President of the Austrian Family Association

Thomas Maximiuk  
President of the Main Association of  
Catholic Parents' Associations

Christian Oxonitsch  
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