

At this international school in Zug, there is practically 2G

(This relates to the 3Gs of covid management - vaccinated, tested, recovered)

While entire classes in public schools sometimes had to be quarantined, international schools seem to have hardly any cases. A look at the protection concept of the International School of Zug and Luzern shows that this is thanks to strict rules and a bubble system.

Instead of making their first friendships with new «Gspändli» at school, some Lucerne schoolgirls spent the start of school at home ([Zentralplus reported](#)). The start of school was also comparatively steep, sometimes several classes had to remain in quarantine at the same time ([Zentralplus reported](#)).

In the non-public schools, however, things seem to be going better. A look at an internationally oriented school in Zug shows: The Corona situation is far less drastic.

Around 1,250 students and only two cases

The International School of Zug and Lucerne (ISZL) operates two schools at the Zug location: The school in Baar teaches first to eighth grade children - but also accepts children as young as three for a preschool program. At the Hünenberg site, young people in grades 9 to 12 go to school.

The demand from Zentralplus confirms: Of the approximately 1,250 students at the ISZL, only two have tested positive since the start of school, as school director Barry Dequanne says. In addition, although some employees had positive Covid cases in their households, the virus could not spread to the school.

Extended mask requirement

In order to ensure the security of the ISZL, the school administration has developed a 26-page protection concept within the framework of the cantonal requirements. In addition, a Covid team advises weekly on the measures and adapts them depending on the Corona situation in the canton and in the school.

The rules are a lot stricter than in public schools: all students from the sixth grade must wear a mask, even in sports. In addition, fourth and fifth graders also have to wear a

mask in the first week after the autumn break. Based on experience, as Dequanne says. The cases are always highest after the holidays, so it is better to be careful.

A "bubble" system applies to all young people: Primary and middle school students (sixth to eighth grade) always stay in the same group during the day. Where this is not possible, such as on the school bus, everyone - including small children - must wear a mask. There are also strict rules for visitors: They need a certificate and a valid reason for the visit. An exception applies to persons who ensure the operation of the school, for example for repairs or deliveries.

All are either vaccinated or tested

Another big difference to the public schools is the high willingness to vaccinate: According to the school, employees and teachers of the ISZL have a vaccination rate of 87 to 99 percent. Secondary school students aged 12 to 14 are 56 percent vaccinated, and 15 to 18 year olds 86 percent. For comparison: the nationwide average of vaccinated young people under the age of 20 is around 37 percent.

Barry Dequanne assumes that the cultural differences are responsible: "In our experience, the vaccination attitude of the students corresponds to the general attitude of the population in their home country." In addition, the families of the students have many relatives overseas. "They want the opportunity to fly home safely to visit their loved ones."

This coincides with the information provided by other "International Schools": As the "Basler Zeitung" recently reported, the International School Basel also hardly reports any corona cases. This is also characterized by a high vaccination rate and strict measures.

The few at the ISZL who are not vaccinated have to be tested twice a week from the fourth grade - unless they sign a waiver. Since, according to Dequanne, no one has yet done without it, the ISZL is effectively 2G: All (except for the very young) have either been tested or have recovered.

The school's transparency is well received

The comparatively strict guidelines would be very well received by the parents. This cannot be taken for granted: in public schools there are children who neither get tested nor wear a mask - at the request of their parents. According to Barry Dequanne, the

ISZL's corona strategy worked so well, among other things, because the parents adhered to the guidelines in an exemplary manner and kept the schools informed.

In return, the school also openly communicated the positive cases to the parents. "It is precisely this transparency that has resulted in the families still trusting us to a great extent," says Dequanne.