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Press release: Cold season 2024/2025 - Rapid spread due to Oktoberfest and Mikrogen's contribution to diagnostics

Munich, October 2024 – RSV season has picked up speed early this year in Germany. In addition to the well-known increase in respiratory diseases in the colder months of the year, major events such as the Munich Oktoberfest are mainly to blame for the rapid spread of infections this year. Especially *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Bordetella pertussis* (whooping cough) are showing a worrying increase in cases. This development calls for rapid and targeted diagnostic action in order to prevent uncontrolled spread and to ensure effective treatment.

The Munich Oktoberfest, which attracts millions of people from all over the world every year, has once again proven to be a hotspot for the spread of respiratory diseases. Huge crowds of people in a confined space provide ideal conditions for the transmission of pathogens, including mycoplasma and bordetella. Initial reports from health authorities have already confirmed an increase in reported infections that can be traced back to Oktoberfest. Young adults, who are often not sufficiently vaccinated against whooping cough, are particularly vulnerable.

Mikrogen's contribution to the management of the 2024/2025 cold season

Mikrogen Diagnostik GmbH, a leading company in the field of infection diagnostics, plays a crucial role in combating the current cold season. With a wide range of diagnostic tests, Mikrogen offers reliable and precise tools to detect and differentiate respiratory diseases at an early stage. Particularly noteworthy are specific tests for identifying *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis*, which are increasingly being used this season.

Thanks to Mikrogen's highly specific PCR diagnostics, doctors and laboratories can land on a clear diagnosis within a very short time. This is crucial for initiating targeted therapies and limiting the spread of pathogens. The tests are easy to use, fast and highly sensitive, making them an indispensable tool in the current infection situation.

Early detection and targeted measures

With the rapid spread of respiratory illnesses due to Oktoberfest, rapid and conclusive diagnostics are crucial. Mikrogen ensures laboratories across Germany are ideally prepared for this cold season and can help minimize the health impact. Especially during this challenging time, when influenza, mycoplasma and whooping cough can occur simultaneously, Mikrogen offers solutions that enable rapid differentiation of the pathogens and thus support targeted treatment.

Mikrogen also emphasizes the importance of preventive measures such as vaccination, especially against whooping cough, to control the spread of *Bordetella*. The combination of vaccination programs and state-of-the-art diagnostics offers the best chance of successfully overcoming the current cold season.

About Mikrogen

Mikrogen Diagnostik GmbH is a leading company in the development and production of molecular and serological diagnostic solutions. With innovative test systems, Mikrogen has been supporting doctors and laboratories worldwide in the diagnosis of infectious diseases for 35 years. The company places particular importance on the highest quality, reliability and customer orientation in order to protect the health of the population and drive medical progress.

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