

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **COVID-19: HIRSLANDEN COMMISSIONED BY THE CANTON OF VALAIS TO IMPLEMENT REPETITIVE TESTING**

**The government of the Canton of Valais has signed an agreement with the Hirslanden Group for repetitive testing in schools and companies. As a result, the canton can now handle all repetitive testing processes via the IT and logistics platform "TOGETHER WE TEST".**

In addition to hygiene and distance regulations, contact tracing and the Covid-19 vaccination, repetitive testing is an important element in monitoring and containing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. For that purpose, Hirslanden has developed the IT and logistics platform "TOGETHER WE TEST", which coordinates all services with participating partner companies (laboratory institutes, logistics or material service providers).

PCR saliva tests are used for the tests. These can be carried out quickly, easily and without specialist help; the evaluations then take place in the laboratory. They are better than rapid antigen tests in terms of sensitivity, especially in asymptomatic persons. Not least for this reason, preventive, repetitive testing plays a central role.

Valais is the ninth canton to commission the Hirslanden Group to carry out repetitive tests. Some 4,500 companies, schools and organisations are currently using the "TOGETHER WE TEST" platform, which has already been used to evaluate more than 1 million tests.

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#### **About Hirslanden**

The Hirslanden Group operates 17 hospitals in 10 cantons, many of which have an emergency department. It also operates 4 outpatient surgical units, 17 radiology institutes and 5 radiotherapy institutes. Together with public and private cooperation partners, Hirslanden focuses on the continuum of care and promoting high-quality, responsible, personalised and efficiently integrated healthcare – this explicitly includes, especially in the current situation, prevention in addition to acute treatment in hospitals.

The Hirslanden Group has 2 314 partner doctors and 10 711 employees, 479 of whom are permanently employed doctors. Hirslanden is the largest medical network in Switzerland. In the 2020/21 financial year, the Group generated turnover of CHF 1 796 million (incl. CHF 12.6 Mio.

cantonal COVID-19 compensations). As at 31.3.2021, the Group had treated 107 401 patients, amounting to a total of 461 004 inpatient days. In insurance terms, the patient mix consists of 51% basic, 28.8% semi-private, and 20.2% private insured patients.

Hirslanden is synonymous with first-class medical care provided by highly qualified medical specialists with many years of experience. As a system provider, the Group stands out from the rest of the market: interdisciplinary medical centres of expertise and specialised institutes enable it to offer the best possible individualised treatment, even in highly complex cases. The Hirslanden Group was formed in 1990 through the merger of several hospitals. Since 2007, it has been part of the international hospital group Mediclinic International plc, which is listed on the London Stock Exchange.