

UVC air disinfection for even more protection

The pediatric practice of Dr. Friederike Herbst-Baus decided early on to provide additional security during the corona pandemic



Early in the pandemic, the pediatrician Dr. Friederike Herbst-Baus had done everything to prepare her practice in Schwalbach, Hesse, for Corona times. When it became known at the beginning of 2021 that COVID-19 is highly infectious and is usually transmitted by aerosols, the doctor and her husband Christian Baus immediately started looking for the best possible hygiene precautions for their practice, and developed a comprehensive solution. "As a medical practice, the health of our patients is of course the most important concern for us, but we also take our duty of care for our team very seriously," emphasizes Baus and describes all the measures taken in an interview, which impressively underpin his words. As in many pediatric practices, there are two waiting rooms in the practice in order to be able to separate infectious patients from healthy ones. There are also new separate entrances to the practice, as well as infection consultation rooms and infection consultation hours.

Hand and surface disinfection and plexiglass panes at the reception counter protect employees and visitors alike from infection. Face masks and social distancing are mandatory. But what to do about the accumulation of aerosols in the air and the associated increase in the viral load in the room? The clinically experienced couple was immediately aware that regular natural ventilation alone would not be enough. The solution: air disinfection. "From our point of view, there are only two suitable technologies: HEPA filter systems and UVC air disinfection devices. We made a conscious decision to use UVC devices." Christian Baus cites two main reasons for this: On the one hand, the germs get stuck in the filter systems, so they are not dead, only trapped. UVC radiation is more effective: it inactivates the virus, making it harmless immediately.

The second reason: Dr. Hönle AG, for whose UVC disinfection systems the Baus couple decided, proved very early on together with the Goethe University in Frankfurt that the devices are both effective and safe. In the pediatric practice of Dr. Friederike Herbst-Baus has had two UVC disinfection devices from the Bavarian UV specialist Hönle installed for a few months now: the highly effective and very quiet SteriWhite Air Q is in the reception area, allowing the team to work undisturbed. In the waiting room, the SteriWhite C was attached to the ceiling – using it was very simple and without complications, as Christian Baus emphasizes. And all of this is a long-term solution, because apart from changing the UV lamps, no further maintenance work is necessary, and they have a service life of up to 16,000 operating hours. The reactions of the patients and the practice team were and are all positive: they not only feel safer, they are safer too. "And that's exactly what we have always been very passionate about," states Christian Baus.