

To all parents of children in Berlin day care centres

1 April 2021

Reclosure of day care centres and child day care Information for parents on emergency operations as of 8th April 2021

Dear parents,

In light of the rising number of infections due to the increasing occurrence of the coronavirus variant (B.1.1.7), the Berlin Senate decided in its special meeting today on the closure of day care centres and child day care again and on the return to emergency operations. This regulation applies as of 8th April 2021. This is intended to reduce the number of new infections and to avoid overloading the healthcare system.

Emergency care can be used if:

- there is an extremely urgent need due to lack of other care options

and at the same time

- the occupation of one of the parents (including working from home) is considered eligible for emergency day care according to the current list available at:

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/bjf/corona/schule/uebersicht-der-berufsgruppen-fuer-die-notbetreuung.pdf>

- your children are of preschool age (i.e. children who will start attending school in the summer) or you are a single parent regardless of your occupation
- care is required for particularly urgent educational reasons. This includes children with disabilities, children with a need for language support, and child protection cases. The care of these children is also independent of the occupations of their parents or guardians.

An exceptionally urgent need for care may be permitted for professional or private reasons. Emergency care may cover a single day or a regular or ongoing need.

Nevertheless, we appeal to all eligible parents and guardians to limit your individual care needs to that which is absolutely necessary. and to coordinate regularly with your day care facilities. Please remember that children with mild cold symptoms such as a runny nose or cough cannot currently be cared for without a negative test result. The regulations of the letter to parents of 31st March 2021 on dealing with children with symptoms of the common cold continue to apply.

Meal expenses:

In view of the recurrent emergency operations and the associated restrictions and burdens for parents, we have asked day care providers to waive meal expenses as of April if the childcare service used does not exceed 10 days in a month. As meal expenses are usually collected at the start of each month, and given that the actual use of care services may not yet be known, a later billing may still follow.

Dear parents,

The Berlin Senate is aiming to return to restricted operations under pandemic conditions as quickly as possible. To this end, we are continuing the vaccination campaign for employees in day care centres and child day care. In addition, further test kits will be provided for teaching staff and, newly, for the children in the coming weeks. Another important component is and remains compliance with all hygiene measures.

We thank you for your understanding and support.

On behalf of

Holger Schulze

Head of Department

Family and Early Childhood Education