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Senate Department for Education, Youth and Families ■ Bernhard-Weiß-Str. 6 ■ D-10178 Berlin

[www.berlin.de/sen/bjf](http://www.berlin.de/sen/bjf)

**To all the parents of children in Berlin day care centres**

July 17, 2020

**Information for Parents on Regular Operations of all Day Care Centres during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Dear Sir or Madam, Dear Parents

After 3 months of emergency operations, all Berlin day care centres have resumed to regular operations under the conditions of the coronavirus pandemic and in accordance with the SARS-CoV-2 Infection Protection Ordinance since June 22, 2020. The day care institutions and the day care centres, first and foremost the managements of the day care centres, are to thank for the successful start back into regular operations and for the mastering of all challenges involved in this process.

Most of the day care centres are currently in the process of preparing the new school year 2020/2021. Especially with a view to the upcoming season, in which activities will take place inside more often again and the number of colds will increase, questions arise regarding the organisation of the day-to-day operations of the day care centres.

We ask you kindly: Please support your day care centre by respecting the containment measures agreed upon, such as: staggered times for dropping off and picking up your child, handing over your child in the outside area, minimising the direct contact of adults among themselves or only with a mouth/nose mask and: Do not bring your child to the day care centre when it is acutely ill. All this helps to avoid infections in children and employees and prevents possible related closures of groups or entire day care centres.

In the last couple of weeks, we received a large number of inquiries from families and day care centres about how to deal with sick children or children with unclear or mild symptoms, with children with risk factors or with holiday in high-risk areas. In the following, we will address some of these questions – in the full knowledge that there always will be new medical findings within the framework of the Covid-19

Central e-mail inbox (also for documents with an electronic signature): [post@senbjf.berlin.de](mailto:post@senbjf.berlin.de)



pandemic that have to be taken in consideration. The following answers represent the current state of knowledge.

### **Children with symptoms:**

Basically, the same applies as before: Sick children should not be brought to nor be cared for in the day care centre. Please do not forget to inform the day care centre about your child's illness. In case your child shows symptoms of an acute respiratory tract infection – as they are also characteristic of a Covid-19 infection – it is not allowed to attend day care. Possible symptoms may be: joint pain, unusual headache, fatigue, chills, fever, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell and taste. If your child gets sick during day care, please pick it up as soon as you can. A doctor or the Health Department decides on possible testing.

To be re-admitted to day care after an acute respiratory tract infection, your child has to be without fever over a longer period of time. If necessary, your day care centre will ask you to make a (written) statement on the fact that your child is without any symptoms for the past 48 hours. A medical clearance or the submission of test results is not necessary for a re-admission.

If your child had a proven Covid-19 infection, on the other hand, a medical clearance is required prior to the re-admission, stating that your child can attend day care again, because it no longer presents any threat of further spread of the virus.

Simple colds with a cough and **without** fever or any other of the symptoms mentioned above are to be distinguished from acute respiratory tract infections. In the case of a simple cold, there is no immediate cause for your child to not attend day care or to continue to be cared for at the day care centre. Please ask yourself the following questions: Is there any cause for concern that your child might be infected with Covid-19? Has there been any contact between your child and an infected person? Have you/Has your child been in a high-risk area? Please talk to your day care centre about these questions or let them contact you directly. In case of doubt, contact your local Health Department.

### **Infections within the family:**

If there is a proven Covid-19 infection within your family, your child is not allowed to attend day care. The same applies when your child has had any contact with an infected person and 14 days have not past since then. In case you or one of your family members is waiting for a test result, because you had contact with an infected person, your child is not allowed to attend day care either – even if you show no symptoms at all.

### **Children from risk groups:**

If your child is at particular high risk for an infection with Covid-19 due to a specific pre-existing condition, you and the day care centre have to discuss certain conditions which have to be met in order to make it possible for your child to further attend day care. These conditions can only be specified individually and in close collaboration between you, the day care centre and the treating doctor of your child. A doctor's note may already contain information about necessary safeguard measures. If there are any doubts or open questions regarding the current situation of your child, the day care centre may request a medical certification prior to the re-admission of your child.

### **Returnees from high-risk areas:**

The SARS-CoV-2 Infection Protection Ordinance regulates in §§ 8 ff. the measures applying to returnees from high-risk areas. Regions within and outside of Germany, in which there is a high risk of infection with

Covid-19, are considered as high-risk areas. These high-risk areas are published on the website of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI):

[www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges\\_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete\\_neu.html](http://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html)

(also available in English)

Persons who were in a risk area at any time within the 14 days before entering the state of Berlin are obliged to go directly to their home, stay in domestic quarantine for 14 days and contact the Health Department responsible for them immediately. This does not apply to persons who have a medical certificate together with current laboratory findings confirming that there are no indications of infection with Covid-19. The medical certificate and the laboratory findings have to be presented to the competent authority or Health Department. The Health Department decides if quarantine measures are necessary or not. These regulations also apply to children. If your child is obliged to stay in domestic quarantine, it is not allowed to attend day care.

**Dear parents,** if you have any further questions, concerns or information, please do not hesitate to contact your elected representation or the Berlin Parent Association for day care centres (Landeselternausschuss Kindertagesstätten; [info@leak-berlin.de](mailto:info@leak-berlin.de)). We will naturally keep you informed about new developments and changes.

This information for parents can be found in various languages on the website of the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Families under the following link:

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/bjf/coronavirus/aktuelles/schrittweise-oeffnung-kita-und-kindertagespflege/>

Sincerely,  
p.p. Carsten Weidner