

**Renate Treutel
Mayor**

Kiel, 11 January 2021

**8th letter to parents¹
Regarding child daycare and emergency care at schools in Kiel**

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a good start to the new year despite the restrictions, and enjoyed the Christmas period with a small circle of loved ones.

From **11 January to 31 January 2021**, a new decree by the state government is in place, briefly summarised as follows: (For a better overview, the changes - especially at the end of the letter - are marked in red.)

- From 16 December 2020 to **31 January 2021**, there is a ban on entering **kindergartens**. Only emergency care will be offered. Excluded from the ban on entry are the employees of the institution, people who provide speech and therapeutic educational offers, as well as guardians, so accompanying a child during their settling-in period is also possible.
 - The offers by **regulated child daycare providers** may be continued, limited to emergency care, or discontinued.
 - From **11 January**, **schools** will provide distance learning offers at home. There will only be emergency care in the schools for pupils in grades 1 to 6. Please enquire at your child's school about how the learning offers for home will be provided.
 - The following children can receive **emergency care** at their kindergarten or school if you as parents do not have an alternative option for looking after your child:
 - o Children of **working single parents**, regardless of the industry in which they work.
 - o Children of parents, at least **one of whom** works in a **critical core sector**. The professional groups regarded as critical infrastructure are summarised below. However, members of the voluntary fire brigade only have a right to emergency care on the days when they are verifiably allocated stand-by duty.
- In addition, the emergency care can be used by:
- o Children who require a high level of daily **care and supervision**, which cannot be provided adequately at home.
 - o Children who **require special protection** with regard to child welfare. This is determined by the head of the Jugendamt (Youth Welfare Office).
- In general, **no more than ten children in a group** may be cared for at the same time in kindergartens. The Ministry of Social Affairs may grant exceptions to this rule.

¹ The previous letters to parents were published up to December 2020

The **emergency care** is intended for employees (not single parents) from the following **professional groups working in critical core sectors**:

- Energy – electricity – gas and fuel supply, etc. (§ 2 of the “BSI-KritisV” Ordinance on Critical Infrastructures);
- Water: public water supply, public sewage disposal (§ 3 of the “BSI-KritisV” Ordinance on Critical Infrastructures), water maintenance, operation of drainage systems;
- Nutrition, feed producers, hygiene (production, wholesale and retail) – including suppliers, logistics (§ 4 of the “BSI-KritisV” Ordinance on Critical Infrastructures);
- Information technology and telecommunications – including systems for eliminating faults and also maintaining networks (§ 5 of the “BSI-KritisV” Ordinance on Critical Infrastructures);
- Healthcare - hospitals, emergency services, outpatient services, residential care and daycare, primary care, health and therapy professionals, medical device manufacturers, pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesalers, midwives, pharmacists, laboratories, military medical services (§ 6 of the “BSI-KritisV” Ordinance on Critical Infrastructures), pregnancy conflict counselling, the services required for orderly operation of hospitals and in-patient care homes (food supply, housekeeping, cleaning), necessary medical services for animal health;
- Finance and cash supply (§ 7 of the “BSI-KritisV” Ordinance on Critical Infrastructures);
- Labour administration, job centres and other social transfers;
- Transport and traffic (§ 8 of the “BSI-KritisV” Ordinance on Critical Infrastructures);
- Disposal, in particular waste disposal;
- Media and culture - risk and crisis communication;
- Core duties of public administration, in particular government and parliament, police, protection of the constitution, fire brigade, disaster control, tax administration, the judicial system, veterinary services, coastal protection, flood protection;
- Teachers and all other persons working in schools, daycare centres and other childcare facilities;
- Integration assistance service offers as per the SGB IX, inpatient treatment for those at risk, inpatient facilities for youth welfare, as well as both outpatient and semi-inpatient youth welfare offerings as a necessary prerequisite for ensuring children's well-being as per the SGB VIII.
- Lawyers, notaries, tax advisers, legal caregivers and their law office personnel;
- Security personnel, caretakers and building cleaners for the sectors/areas listed above;
- Undertakers.

The managers have a duty to clarify with you whether these conditions apply to you. Many already clarified this in spring during the first lockdown.

Childcare fees

The state government has decided to waive the fees for the month of January. You don't have to submit any application to the city for this, the refund will be issued automatically in Kiel.

The bank deductions for the January fees have already been suspended, meaning that the fees will not be charged to your account. If you have set up a bank debit order, please delete this for January. If you have already paid the January fees, you will receive a refund during February.

Unfortunately, for technical reasons we must deduct fees for preschool daycare as before, but we will refund these amounts to you by no later than the end of March. You don't have to submit an application for this, either.

Even if you make use of the emergency care for your children, the fees for January will not be deducted, or they will still be refunded to you.

These rules also apply to the emergency care provided in schools.

Additional childcare option

According to the new regulations issued by the state government, from 11 January you may only meet with people in your own household and with one other person from outside your household. However, there are exceptions which primarily apply to providing childcare for your children: it is legally possible for two families to support each other with caring for their children. But according to the rules specified by the Ministry of Social Affairs, it must always be the same families, to still minimise contacts as far as possible.

Increase in the child sick-leave benefits

The federal government has announced that it will pass legislation to increase the child sick-leave benefits by a further 10 days per parent in 2021, and 20 additional days for single parents. Unlike in the past, these benefits will also apply even if parents must take care of their children at home because the childcare facility is closed due to the pandemic, and/or access to childcare services is reduced. The precise formulation of the regulations by the federal government is currently still pending.

Compensation for loss of earnings

In accordance with the Infection Protection Act (Infektionsschutzgesetz), the bans on entry in Schleswig-Holstein decreed by the authorities also entitle you as working parents to compensation for 67 percent of your resulting loss of earnings for up to 10 weeks, and up to 20 weeks for single parents.

Dear Parents,

I would like to draw your attention to a regulation enacted by the state government by decree: If the so-called 7-day incidence in Kiel increases to (above) 70, which is currently the case, then all adults are obliged to wear a face mask in childcare institutions (crèches, elementary schools, after-school care, kindergartens). The educational professionals should also do so, and only temporarily remove their masks if required by the situation, e.g. for language support or to comfort a child.

Even though you have already had to make significant efforts, I ask you to please continue following the rules, and above all stay strong in your family. We all hope for a rapid improvement in the situation.

Warmest wishes,



Renate Treutel