

Kiel, 22.02.2021

10th letter to parents¹
Regarding child daycare and emergency care at schools in Kiel

Dear Parents,

The rate of infection has developed slightly more positively, so some restrictions are being lifted.

From **22 February 2021** onwards, a new Schools Coronavirus Regulation (SchulencoronaVO) (dated 20 February 2021) and the Combating Coronavirus Regulation (Corona-Bekämpfungsverordnung) (dated 19 February 2021) will, briefly summarised, regulate the following: (Changes to the previous letter are in red to make them easier to see).

- The ban on entering daycare centres is lifted. **Child daycare in Kiel will be open to all children from 22 February 2021 onwards**, so all children will be able to attend their daycare centres and kindergartens again!
- According to the daycare perspective plan, **regular operations will resume "under pandemic conditions"**. This form of childcare is already well-known to the daycare centres and daycare staff from last year, since it was successfully implemented until 15 December 2020. **Of course, strictly following the protection and hygiene measures is still very important.**
(There will be separate regulations for some districts and independent cities, because the infection rates there do not yet allow further opening of daycare centres. However, that doesn't affect Kiel at the moment.)
- The following applies to general education schools and support centres: **For the pupils in years 1 to 4, there are lessons in the classroom.** This also applies to full-day and supervision offers at schools.
- In principle, there will be **no lessons in the classroom and no other school events requiring attendance for pupils from year 5 upwards from 22 February to 7 March 2021.** Distance learning is planned for these pupils.
There is emergency care available for the pupils in years 5 and 6. This also applies to full-day and supervision offers at schools. The criteria for this have already been publicised:

The following children can receive **emergency care in years 5 and 6** at their 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 Pupils who require care at school due to their special needs.

¹ The previous letter to parents was published on 26.01.2021.

The **emergency care** is intended for employees 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.
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- For pupils with **special educational support needs**, the required **supervision offers** can be provided at general education schools. The same applies to **pupils from year 7 upwards**, who require supervision at school **due to their special needs**.
 - The required teaching and supervision offers will be made available at **support centres**, which the pupils can **attend after consultation with the school administration**. Distance learning is envisaged for pupils who do not attend lessons in the classroom.
 - For pupils in **their final exam years**, **lessons in the classroom** can take place, primarily for those pupils who will participate in a final examination in the 2020/21 school year.
 - The **planned examinations may be carried out** at the school. The same applies to years 9 to 13 for written tests, insofar as they are required for determining the grades which are directly relevant to the final school reports at the end of the 2020/21 school year.

Please enquire at your child's school about what the learning offers for home look like.

The responsible health authorities can implement different regulations for childcare and primary schools, if the regional infection rate requires a restriction of attendance.

- **Obligation to wear a face mask:**

o Child daycare:

- The new Combating Coronavirus Regulation now also requires that in indoor and outdoor areas of child daycare centres and kindergartens, all persons aged seven and older must wear an approved face mask, e.g. a medical mask. The same applies to parents.
- This does not apply to the children in child daycare centres and kindergartens (except for after-school care). The exceptions from Section 2 (2) of the Schools Coronavirus Regulation (SchulencoronaVO) apply to after-school care. Depending on the situation, and bearing the best interests of the children in mind, the employees and staff can refrain from wearing an approved face mask when caring for the children, for example for targeted language support or when resolving disputes and comforting the children.

o Schools:

- During the period from 22 February to 7 March 2021, there is an **extended obligation** to wear a face mask: **all pupils** must wear a face mask in the classroom, and are only exempt from this obligation during final examinations, during written tests lasting more than two hours and during oral presentations, provided that a minimum social distance to others of 1.5 metres is maintained;
- Pupils must wear a face mask **in the school playground and in the cafeteria** as well as **on the school routes between bus or train stations and the school**; they are only exempt from this obligation if a minimum social distance to others of 1.5 metres is maintained;
- During the period from 22 February to 7 March 2021, the existing obligation to wear a face mask must be fulfilled by wearing **a medical or comparable mask**, or a mask without an exhalation valve which meets the standards FFP2, FFP3, N95, KN95, P2, DS2 or KF94.

- **Testing offered to workers at daycare centres, kindergartens, schools and care facilities for schoolchildren**

The state government has decided to support the planned reopening steps for child daycare and schools with testing offered to staff and teachers. The aim is to provide more safety for all employees at kindergartens and child daycare workers as well as for school operations. All workers will have the opportunity to get a free test twice a week. This testing offer applies until 2 April 2021. There is currently no testing offered to children and pupils, the federal government is still busy considering this.

- **Fees for parents**

- o The state government has decided that the fees for parents do not have to be paid for the duration of the closure. Therefore, the fees for parents must only be paid for the period from 22 to 28 February 2021. The February fees will automatically be reduced by 75%. You don't have to submit an application for this.
- o For technical reasons, the deductions of the reduced fees amounting to 25% will not take place until April. At this time, all overpayments made (e.g. through bank debit orders) will also be repaid.
- o Unfortunately, for technical reasons, the standard procedures remain in place for fees for preschool daycare. However, we will reimburse you for all overpayments made by the end of April at the latest. You don't have to submit an application for this, either.
- o Even if you make use of the emergency care for your children, the fees for part of February will not be deducted, or they will still be refunded to you. The only costs payable are for any meals eaten at lunchtime. You will receive a separate notification about this.

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

- The approved release for parents from paying fees is also applicable for the full-day and supervision offers at schools. If you make your payments directly to the daycare facility, please contact them regarding release from payments / refunding terms.
- The ministry is still in the process of clarifying the fees for parents for full-day and supervision offers at schools for years 5 and 6 for the period from 15 February 2021 onwards.

Dear Parents,

I am really delighted for you and your children, who are allowed to return to their child daycare and primary schools, because it is a major milestone in your lives. Having and encouraging social contacts for your children are particularly valuable for their development. As parents, you can now make use of reliable education and care structures at child daycare centres and primary schools once again.

I asked parents, children and adolescents to get involved in our education conference "Bildung in Zeiten von Corona" (Education during COVID) at the end of February with their video messages. Thank you very much for these submissions, the results will be published soon. They provide good insight into your life situations.

I wish you and your children that further reopening steps will follow, and that we will be able to regain a more normal everyday life bit by bit. So far, you have helped very much to comply with the hygiene regulations. That is now paying off. We ask you and your children to please continue your efforts. Thank you very much for your help!

Warmest wishes,
Yours



Renate Treutel