

## To the parents of children in Berlin daycare centers

March 29, 2021

### **Parental guidance regarding the operation of daycare centers from March 29, 2021 with additional information from March 31, 2021**

Dear Parents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite various measures to ensure the stable and safe operation of Berlin daycare centers, the incidence of infections is on the rise, such that the number of partially or wholly closed daycare centers is continually increasing. At the same time, it has become evident in Berlin, that the number of infected children is also on the rise. We are therefore asking you to use the daycare service only to the extent that it is absolutely necessary and to coordinate your needs with your daycare center on a regular basis.

In addition, the following applies:

- **Reduced regular operation will be continued.** The children must be looked after in groups that are as stable as possible. If this cannot be implemented due to organizational or personnel reasons, further reductions in the extent of care may become necessary.
- **Children with cold symptoms may not attend daycare.** This is a temporary precautionary measure due to the increasing number of COVID-19 infections among children of kindergarten age. This also includes children who only have a cough or common cold and no fever. If there is a doctor's diagnosis for the cold symptoms, e.g. allergic reactions such as hay fever, your child will naturally still have access to daycare.
- Alternatively, you may perform a rapid test/self-test for your child at home and may present a self-declaration regarding the negative test result at the daycare center. Wherever organizational constraints permit, the self-test may be carried out on site in the daycare center by the parents. **Self-tests for children** will probably be made available to daycare centers from the middle of April.
- You also have the option of contacting a pediatrician about the test. As not all medical practices perform such tests or issue a certificate, we strongly recommend that you contact the practice in question prior to your visit.
- In order for your child to be able to attend daycare again after a break, it is necessary that they no longer exhibit any symptoms. You don't need a medical certificate that your child is healthy nor is there a need to re-test.
- **Pedagogical staff is now also permitted to wear medical face masks when in immediate contact with the children.** For adults who come into contact with one another it is compulsory to wear a face mask. Exceptions from the obligation to wear a medical face mask may only be granted if a medical certificate is presented.

Offering vaccinations for daycare staff and the continuous provision of rapid tests have made a significant contribution to stabilizing daycare operations. However, since small children are now increasingly becoming infected, reducing contacts and the ability to trace contacts remain vital. Consequently, we urge you to keep this in mind in your private environment as well.

**If you have any questions or concerns, the Parent Hotline of the Senate Department for Youth, Education and Family continues to be at your service. You may reach the service by dialing 030 - 90227 6600 on all workdays from 9 AM to 1 PM (except April 1, 2021).**

Sincerely Yours,

By order  
Holger Schulze  
Department Head  
Family and Early Education of Children