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10178 Berlin-Mitte

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

**To the Parents of Children
Attending Day-Care Centres in Berlin**

www.berlin.de/sen/bjf

03.02.2021

Information for Parents on the Closure of Day-Care Centres until 14.02.2021 and on the Right to Emergency Care

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Parents,

We are aware of the great burdens that the closure and the emergency operation of the day care centres entail. We are explicitly thankful for your support and your patience which are needed to cope with this situation. The current drop in the number of infections gives us hope that the various measures taken to contain the pandemic, which affect social life on a whole, are beginning to have an effect. To support this positive tendency, the measures taken to reduce contact in day-care centres will be maintained as planned.

In this respect, we ask you to continue to look after your children at home as much as possible.

At the same time, we ask for your understanding, that we are not yet able to provide you with concrete information about the regulations pertaining to the operations of the day-care centres from 15. 02..

For this, we first must wait for the agreement between the federal government and the federal states, as well as the subsequent decisions of the Senate.

With this letter we are sending you, new as well as additional information, on the meal charges, sick leave allowance and access to emergency care.

Meal Charges

Unlike most federal states, fees are not charged in the day- care sector in the state of Berlin. The parents' contribution to the costs of meals is usually 23 euros per month.

The contribution to the costs of meals must continue to be paid even during regular closing days or when the child is ill. The same has also previously applied in the context of pandemic-related restrictions on day care operations.

Due to the ongoing limitations to the day-care operations, we have now informed the carriers about our expectation to suspend the collection of meal costs for the month of February.

This applies to families whose children are not looked after for more than 10 days in February.

Since the collection of meal payments usually take place at the beginning of the month, and that the current need for the provision childcare is still unclear, a subsequent settlement is possible.

Child Sick Leave Allowance

In our last letter we informed you, among other things, about your options within the framework of the extended child sick leave allowance.

Due to various enquiries, we would like to clarify that the people entitled to emergency care also generally continue to be entitled to child sick leave allowance, if they care for their children at home following our recommendation.

Access to emergency care

With our last parent information, we informed you about the access to emergency care. Please remember that there must be an exceptionally urgent need for childcare, for example because there is no other possibility of supervision. Being employed in a profession recognised as systematically relevant is not sufficient for access to emergency care.

In order to ensure that the objective of contact reduction can continue to be maintained, the operation grade of the day care centres should not exceed 50 per cent.

For staffing or organisational reasons, your facility may be forced in individual cases to reduce the opening hours in consultation with the day care centre supervisor. We ask for your comprehension in this regard.

For clarification of questions regarding eligibility for emergency care, you can still contact the Parents' Hotline of the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family. You can reach them on 030 - 90227 6600 on all working days from 9 am to 3 pm.

With kind regards

On behalf of

Holger Schulze

Head of the Family and Early Childhood Education Department