

To all parents of children in Berlin day care centres

4 March 2021

On the reopening of day care centres with restricted operations as of 9th March 2021

Dear parents,

The closure of Berlin day care centres since 25th January 2021 has led to burdens and restrictions for you and your children, even as more than half of all children were recently able to use emergency care. The Senate is very aware of this strain on families in Berlin.

Knowing this and on the basis of the present very low incidence of infection in Berlin day care centres, the Senate decided in its meeting on the 2nd of March 2021 to reopen day care facilities (day care centres and child day care/childminders) as of the 9th of March 2021 for all Berlin children and to allow restricted operations under pandemic conditions.

Specifically, the following has been outlined:

1. All children should have access to a day care service. Restrictions to specific target groups and the list of certain occupations as essential services are no longer applicable.
2. All children will receive childcare services that at least fulfil the legal entitlement of 7 hours a day, irrespective of need.
3. Day care centres should provide families care according to their needs to the largest extent possible and therefore offer at least one daily care group the number of hours corresponding to the all-day voucher.
4. To avoid infections, contact should be reduced and contact tracing should be made possible. Care should therefore take place in groups that are as stable as possible.
5. The applicable hygiene measures must still be observed.

The upcoming reopening will pose great organisational challenges for day care providers and facilities, especially in cases where not all educators are available. If this is the case in your day care centre, it may be necessary, in coordination with the day care supervisor, to offer childcare models with daily or weekly changes for a limited period of time. We ask for your understanding in this regard and for your active support of the day care centres.

In addition, we ask you to continue using childcare only when absolutely necessary and to coordinate with your day care centre on a regular basis.

The reopening of day care facilities is supported by the continuous and comprehensive provision of rapid tests for day care staff as well as the provision of personal protective equipment (especially

FFP2). Additionally, due to the expansion of the vaccination strategy, day care staff rose in the order of vaccination priority and can now receive vaccinations promptly.

These measures will make a significant contribution to the security and stability of day care operations in day care centres and child day care.

With the start of restricted operations, the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family Affairs requires all parents from March 2021 to once again contribute to the meal expenses of 23 euros per month. This applies even if your children do not attend day care.

We will continue to observe and evaluate the infection situation in the facilities with great attention even after the start of restricted operations under pandemic conditions, in order to react if necessary.

For questions, the parent hotline of the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family Affairs will continue to be available until the 15th of March 2021. You can reach the hotline at 030 90227 6600 on workdays from 9am to 3pm.

We are very grateful for your support in dealing with the current situation. We hope that these new measures will make it easier for you to organise your family life and allow you and your children a little more normality in your daily routine.

Sincerely

On behalf of
Holger Schulze
Head of Department V
Family and Early Childhood Education