

To the parents of children in Berlin daycare centers

March 29, 2021

Parental guidance regarding the operation of daycare centers from March 29, 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 also includes children who only have a cough or common cold and no fever. As an alternative, you may present the result of a current negative rapid test or self-test. Performance and timeliness of the test must be confirmed by a self-declaration or a certificate from a test center. For rapid tests you may use any of the testing centers available in Berlin. Please try to assess in advance whether your child will agree to being tested by a strange person. 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.
- 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