

To all parents of children in Berlin day care centres

5 May 2021

Information for parents on the extension of access to emergency childcare

Dear Parents, dear Madam or Sir,

according to the requirements of the SARS-CoV-2 Containment Measures Regulations, Berlin's day care centres and day care facilities are still closed, with the emergency childcare in place.

Fortunately, the so-called 7-day incidence is declining in Berlin and the incidence of infection in the day care centres, including among the children, is steadily decreasing. This positive development now makes it possible to take further steps towards opening the day care centres activity.

The Senate therefore decided in its meeting on 4 May 2021 that **from the 10th of May 2021 all children who have reached the age of four should have access to emergency care. A special and urgent need for care is not a prerequisite for this.**

The Senate is also examining further steps to open up the system in order to be able to offer childcare to all Berlin families and their children again in the near future. The prerequisite for this is and remains to be a continued stable or decreasing incidence of infection.

To create the framework conditions for safe emergency childcare activity, we support the facilities and the children who are there with, among other things, vaccination offers for staff, protective materials, testing opportunities and the possibility of childcare in small, stable groups.

In order for children to be able to attend the day care centre despite having symptoms of a mild cold, you may present a negative test result or a corresponding self-declaration. To prove the absence of a Corona infection, it is sufficient to submit a negative test result once. A daily confirmation of a negative test result or a daily repetition of tests is not required.

We have provided a total of 500,000 self-tests for day care children to the providers for distribution to parents. Please note:

- Test collection is done by yourself and not by the day care staff.
- These tests will be given to you on demand so that you can test your child **as warranted**.

If you are given a test, we urge you to follow the training video of the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family Affairs on how to use the test as to avoid application errors. You can find this at https://www.berlin.de/sen/bjf/corona/tests/#faq_1_7

If chronic illnesses are present that also include symptoms of a cold or a sickness, repeated testing is not necessary for this reason alone. However, a doctor's certificate confirming the pre-existing condition must be presented in order to be allowed to attend the day care centre.

In recent weeks, we have also regularly received questions about so-called saliva self-tests. These have not yet been approved by the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices, which is why we have not made the respective tests available to the day care centres.

Dear parents,

we are aware that the closure of the day care centres is a great burden, especially for Berlin families who are still not eligible to get access to any childcare services despite the extensive emergency care. We assure you that the Senate is examining further steps to replace the existing closure of Berlin's day care centres with emergency care as quickly as possible in favour of an offer for all Berlin families and their children.

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