



To all parents
with children in Berlin daycare centres

7 September 2021

Information for parents at the start of the new daycare year

Dear parents and to whom it may concern,

Berlin's daycare centres have successfully started the new daycare year 2021/2022. All children can be cared for in regular mode thanks to an overall low incidence of infections.

The increasing vaccination rates, the Berlin testing strategy, and the already proven and practised rules of hygiene, including ventilation and the wearing of masks when adults are in contact with each other and the rules for organising parents' meetings, parties and celebrations, all make a decisive contribution to this low incidence of infection.

The aforementioned rules continue to be of great importance, especially in view of the coming autumn and winter season. With this in mind, we are also expanding the possibilities of testing for your children:

Expansion of the Berlin testing strategy

The state of Berlin will make PoC antigen rapid tests available to you via the daycare facilities for regular voluntary testing of your children. From mid-September, you will be able to obtain

rapid antigen tests for so you can test your child twice per week, initially for the period until the end of October 2021.

These extended testing options complement the previous regulations for testing on an ad hoc basis, for example for children with symptoms of illness, children returning from a trip abroad or in the event of a confirmed case of infection at the daycare centre.

We ask you to make use of these possibilities continuously and regularly, thus contributing to a safe daycare operation.

Parallel to this measure, the pilot project for the use of lollipop PCR tests is being advanced. In addition, the daycare centres will receive further antigen tests for regular testing of the staff.

Quarantine for close contacts

With the Fifth Ordinance Amending the Third SARS-CoV-2 Infection Protection Measures Ordinance (SARS-CoV-2 InfSchVO), the Senate has clarified that quarantine for close contacts of positively tested daycare centre children has not lost its importance and contributes to the protection of their surroundings.

However, due to the predominant infection in the first phase of the infection, the Senate has shortened the quarantine period or so-called isolation period from 14 to 5 days. This means that the quarantine of a close contact person can end at the earliest on the sixth day after its start, given that a negative result of a PoC antigen or PCR test can be provided. This way, we try to keep the burden for the Berlin families caused by the quarantine regulations as low as possible.

The decision as to who is the first-degree contact person continues to be made in close consultation between the daycare centre and the respective responsible public health department.

Corona time-out for families - "facilitating family holiday periods"

We would also like to inform you that the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs will be funding family holiday periods in non-profit family recreation centres as part of the federal programme

"Catching up after Corona for children and youth" from 01.10.2021 to 31.12.2022. The programme is aimed in particular at families on transfer payments (low incomes) and families with children or other family members with disabilities.

Eligible families can book a family holiday at a reduced rate in non-profit family recreation centres or other facilities suitable for family recreation throughout Germany and pay only about ten percent of the usual costs for accommodation and meals.

More information can be found on this website:

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/corona-pandemie/corona-auszeit-fuer-familien>

Yours sincerely

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