

To all parents of children in Berlin day care centres

10. Juni 2020

Information for Parents on the Return of the Day Care System to Regular Operation in June 2020

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Parents,

The closure of Berlin's day care centres as of March 17, 2020 has brought about many challenges and constraints in your daily life and that of your children. The children miss their friends and familiar care facilities and the parents lack the support they need to reconcile family and career.

Although the emergency operations in the facilities have been steadily increasing in recent weeks, through the support of the responsible providers, so that more than half of the children cared for before the crisis can now take advantage of emergency care services, the current child care situation remains unsatisfactory for many of you.

Due to the comparatively low rate of infection and the thus subsequent easing of containment regulations in all areas of society, we now want to re-open Berlin's day care facilities and return to regular day care operations.

The following procedure is planned:

- From Monday 15.06.2020 until Monday, 22.06.2020, the responsible providers or facilities are to accept all children who have not yet been considered for emergency care with a legal entitlement.
- From 22.06.2020 at the latest, all children should receive care as per the coverage of the individual voucher. This also includes the provision of early and late shift services within the opening hours offered. From this date, the list of the essential service occupational groups will cease to apply.

- The period between 22.06.2020 and 31.07.2020 is intended to further stabilise the day-care operation and to prepare for the new day-care year 2020/2021 commencing from 01.08.2020, for example with regard to the admission of new children and their familiarisation.

As a result of this process, all children will receive child care. This will bring a significant relief for families. Please note that once regular operations have started, you will be obliged to contribute to the cost of meals again. If day care service is recommenced by 20th June at the latest, the cost contribution of 23 € for the month of June will apply. From July 2020, this obligation will then be applicable to all parents.

As the pandemic is not over, the return to regular day care is subject to special conditions. Care services should therefore be provided in stable group structures as much as possible and the traceability of infections should be ensured. Measures to reduce contact between parents and the day care centres are also still important:

- Contacts should be reduced as much as possible in the drop-off and pick-up phase (between employees and parents and parents among themselves). Scaled times or a handover in the outside area can help here. You should also wear a mouth and nose protector when dropping off and picking up your child.
- Parents' conversations should still be conducted predominantly by telephone. During direct contact, the regular precautions (mouth-and-nose protection, distance) should be observed.

However, it is not possible to comply with the rules of distance during the provision of the care service. The process of opening up will pose major organisational challenges for the providers and facilities, especially as not all the educators are currently available.

We would therefore ask you to coordinate closely with your facilities on the concrete form of care and to seek concrete solutions while taking mutual requirements into account. This process of opening up can only succeed if we continue to work together in solidarity.

I can assure you that we aim towards the goal of improving the care situation for Berlin families as well and as quickly as possible in recognition of the current situation.

The Senate Administration's telephone hotline for parents (**030 90227 6600**) will remain open for you until 30.06.2020.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of

Schulze

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