



07/01/2021

Information for parents

whose children attend a day-care centre or day-care provider

Information for authorities, management and general staff

of day-care centres and day-care providers

Day-care facilities from 11/01/2021

By decision of the Federal Chancellor and the heads of the federal state governments on 05/01/2021, the nationwide lockdown has been extended until 31/01/2021.

As a result, the following regulations will apply to day-care facilities for children in North Rhine-Westphalia from 11/01/2021:

Day-care centres:

- The urgent appeal to parents to look after their children themselves whenever possible is still being upheld, in order to reduce contact with others.
- However, day-care centres will remain open in principle. Parents are responsible for deciding whether to send their children in. Day-care centres are not permitted to demand a letter from parents' employers.
- Certain aspects of child welfare are to be given special consideration, i.e. in

concrete terms, if day-care services consider the provision of child care to be indispensable from their professional point of view, they should individually talk to and invite families to send in the child.

- Children who are looked after for child protection reasons as well as children who have to be looked after due to special hardship should attend day-care. In these cases, the extent of care provided is to be determined by the Youth Welfare Officer or a person appointed by them in consultation with the management of the day-care centre.
- The requirements of the Corona Care Ordinance (*Coronabetreuungsverordnung*) apply, i.e. a minimum distance of 1.5 metres must be maintained between adults. If the minimum distance cannot be maintained, adults must wear a mouth-nose covering. Appropriate hygiene precautions shall be taken and traceability shall be ensured.
- Groups should be separated state-wide, i.e. in permanently assigned rooms, with a fixed composition (always the same children) and, as a rule, fixed staff members. The different groups should have no direct contact with each other. This applies to the entire pedagogical daily routine, when picking up or dropping off, during off-peak hours, when using rooms, during nap and meal times. The maximum size of the individual groups corresponds to the respective maximum group sizes according to the annex of § 33 KiBiz (German Child Education Act). As a rule, siblings should be cared for in one group. (Partially) open concepts may not be implemented.
- In order to be able to implement group separation, the level of care in day-care centres is limited to 10 hours per week for each child state-wide. As long as the respective staff resources permit and as long as the day-care centre will not be overburdened, higher care volumes are also possible. The centre or the authority decides on the respective arrangement.
- The personnel standards set down by the KiBiz in connection with the Personnel Ordinance apply.

Day-care providers:

- Parents are urgently recommended to look after their children themselves whenever possible, in order to reduce contact with others.
- The requirements of the Corona Care Ordinance apply, i.e. a minimum distance of 1.5 metres must be maintained between adults. If the minimum

distance cannot be maintained, adults must wear a mouth-nose covering. Appropriate hygiene precautions should be taken and traceability should be ensured.

- In day-care, children are generally cared for within the time limits of the care contracts. In group day-care, the day-care workers and the children assigned to them should be physically separated for the entire daily care time, if possible.

These pandemic restrictions are initially valid for the duration of the lockdown until 31/01/2021.

Additional child sickness leave:

In order to alleviate the additional burden on parents, at least in economic terms, it is to be regulated by federal law that child sickness leave is to be granted for 10 additional days per parent (20 additional days for single parents) in 2021. The entitlement should also apply to cases in which the child is cared for at home and day-care is avoided, in accordance with the state government's appeal.

Parental contributions:

Minister Dr Stamp has agreed with Finance Minister Lienenkämper that parental contributions will be paused throughout the state for the month of January. The form of reimbursement/type of settlement may vary from municipality to municipality. The procedures are currently being clarified, but this may take some time.

Tests for employees in day-care centres and for day care workers:

All managers, day-care centre employees and day-care workers can be tested free of charge up to six times on a date of their choosing after the Christmas holidays from 7 January 2021 to 26 March 2021. Further details can be found in the enclosed letter regarding testing.