

To
the parents with children in day-care facilities

Schwerin, December 14, 2020

Regular operation in the day care for children in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania during the protection phase from December 16, 2020 to January 10, 2021

Dear parents,

all of us, your families, your children and the employees in the day-care facilities and the day-care workers have already had a challenging year behind them due to the corona pandemic. I would like to thank all those who, with their thoughtful and considerate behaviour, have helped to reduce the spread of the virus. I would particularly like to thank the employees in day-care facilities who, with great commitment, made the support and care of the children possible and provided as much normality as possible for the children.

Due to the partly drastic restrictions imposed by the state government since November, the exponential increase in the number of infections and an overload of the health system was able to be prevented. In order for this to remain so and in order to reduce the number of infections, we need a perspective for child day care in the state that also carries through the Christmas season.

Christmas is family time. Now over Christmas and New Year we have the chance to concentrate on ourselves and our loved ones. We should therefore reduce all contacts to a minimum in the run-up to Christmas and in the days up to January 10, 2021.

Even if day-care facilities are not infection drivers according to current scientific knowledge and the regularly updated incidence figures, we still must further reduce potential chains of infection. In this way, we can ensure that the risk of infection in day-care facilities remains low even after Christmas and the turn of the year. I also see this as an opportunity to continue our country's previous course of keeping day-care facilities and schools largely open.

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Therefore my urgent appeal to you, dear parents:

If possible, leave your children at home between December 16, 2020 and January 10, 2021. Only make use of the day-care facilities and after-school care facilities if you cannot ensure the care of your children yourself or by your family or friends.

Unlike in some other states, the state government has now decided against closings with emergency care, as we painfully experienced during the first phase of the lockdown. This is only possible because I count on your understanding and cooperation.

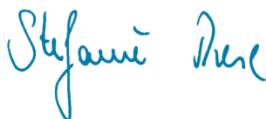
During the protection phase from December 16 to January 10, the day-care facilities will therefore remain open. The legal entitlement to child daycare continues. The care times are not restricted. But we want to work together once again to step up our efforts to reduce the number of contacts. With your help as parents, the groups in the day-care facilities can become smaller, because all educators and professionals remain on board. It is you who bear a great deal of responsibility in this protection phase so that the goal of reducing contacts can actually be achieved.

Employers are also urged to check whether the business premises can be closed either by means of company holidays or generous home office solutions during the protection phase, in order to comply with the nationwide principle "We stay at home" in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

Thank you all for your help and I hope that with vaccine protection available in 2021, we will soon be able to return to normality.

I wish you a peaceful and, above all, healthy Christmas in a small group.

Sincerely yours



Stefanie Drese