

KIRSTEN DINNEBIER

Stadträtin

Marburg, im Januar 2021

Dear parents and legal guardians,

Federal and state governments have temporarily extended the current lockdown until 31.01.2021. This was decided upon as the incident rates nationwide are very high.

Since 11.01.2021 there is a new regulation in place for the state of Hessen. For childcare there has not been any changes made to the regulations installed 13.12.2020. This means that childcare facilities (Kitas) and daycare facilities remain open. **However, this does not mean that a normal operation of those facilities is possible. They continue to operate under pandemic-conditions.**

The Marburg expert group on the subject "Kita and Corona" has discussed the current rules (with representatives of doctors' practices, parents, the health office, departments for virology, independent organisations and the youth office) about further proceedings and they have issued recommendations.

The most important question concerning this is:

Is it possible that you may care for your children at home?

This measure serves not the maintenance of the infrastructure, but rather secures that as many people as possible stay healthy. Our common priority is security for all, for you and your family as well as for our staff in our facilities.

One thing is clear: You and all of us feel the regulations are a burden, but normality is only attainable by **responsible behaviour** and the reduction of contacts in private and at work.

If you bring your child to the facilities then you must have good reasons for this and do not need to justify this! Please also keep in mind the need for contact minimisation.

A certain **planning security** is indispensable even under pandemic-conditions: the required lunches and the planning of staff deployment need to be well prepared. Your facility will therefore contact you and ask you about the necessary care requirements of your child.

The teams in the facilities will as usual lovingly and professionally take care of all children, which requires in times of the pandemic increased efforts: Development of stricter hygiene plans and compliance with the hygiene regulations, no usual daily exchange with the parents, concern about the risk of infection, additional working hours for the strictly separated groups, development of creative ideas for the work under the Corona rules, etc.

Concluding with a word about the **fees and lunch money**: Many of you make an effort since 13.12.2020 to care for your children at home in order to reduce the risk of infection. We therefore are checking for the possibility of a refund.

Additional children's sick days: the federal government has announced that parents may take 10, and respectively single parents may take 20 days in additional children's sick days. The Kita-managements will issue certificates for this. However, currently many details remain to be clarified. We therefore ask for your patience and we will inform you once there are agreed procedures.

For the hurried readers:

- Care for your children, when possible, at home.
- Act responsibly, reduce contacts.
- The legal claim for childcare remains. If you are in need, you may bring your children into the facility.
- A possible partial refund is currently being discussed.
- You will receive a certification for the claim of additional children's sick days once there is a binding regulation on this matter.

I wish all of you all the best for the new year and a lot of strength and health. I want to assure you our support in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Kirsten Dinnebier
town council