

Information for parents

Coronavirus (SARS-CoV2, COVID-19)

Here: closure of schools as from Monday 16.03.2020

Decision by Saarland's Ministerial Council today

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you will already have heard from the media, all schools in Saarland will be closed as from this coming Monday, including afternoon childcare. The same applies to day care centres. Student industrial placements, other work experience placements and other school events will also not be taking place. Apprentices at vocational schools in Saarland shall perform their duties in the companies during this period.

I ask for your understanding that I am only able to provide this information now, but the measure was not decided by the Ministerial Council until 8am this morning. It was also not possible to inform the staff any earlier, because the decision had to be made at very short notice. The main issue here is the concern for all our health. Interrupting chains of infection in areas where many people come together was categorised as absolutely necessary. This is a preventive measure which is not based on positive test results being determined among members of the school community at several schools.

This letter is merely providing initial basic information. More details will follow. In light of the short notice period - also for ministry staff - it is currently not possible to provide comprehensive guidelines for action. I also ask for your understanding in this respect, too. You can rest assured that answers to all school-related questions will be provided, step by step.

For the first measure, please give the students all their books and other materials which may be stored at school to take home with them today. Please give the students a copy of this informational letter to put in their schoolbags.

The closure of schools means that there will be no lessons and generally no more supervision in the school buildings as from Monday.

As the purpose of the measure is to avoid chains of infection, there can be no childcare/supervision services anywhere.

The teachers at your school remain fully obliged to work. Necessary work-related tasks are to be carried out.

Teachers are requested to offer learning options to their students which are possible without personal contact. The Ministry will provide further information in this regard.

Teachers do not have to be on school premises the whole time. A member of the School Board should, however, be on site and reachable during normal school hours.

For the coming Monday, I ask that you convene a meeting to inform all those affected about the principles formulated in this letter, to elicit solutions and prepare to implement them. Other necessary conferences, especially grade conferences, can and should take place in school buildings. Participants must be restricted to the required number in line with the measures.

This does not apply to schools which have quarantine measures on the initiative of the responsible health authority.

The Ministry of Education and Culture requests that you continue to prepare central final exams in the usual manner. Examination dates that have already been set in the calendars generally remain valid. More specifications will be provided on options for carrying out parts of exams, in particular those planned for before the Easter holidays.

I am aware that you, as the heads of schools, are confronted with a situation that poses particular challenges. In line with our common concern of not abandoning students in this difficult situation, our joint efforts should pay off.

If you have any urgent questions, please contact your school authority.

With kind regards,
By order of

signed Bernhard Bone

Bernhard Bone
Head of the Department of
General Schools

signed Dr. Michael Franz

Dr. Michael Franz
Head of the Department of
Vocational Schools