

## ***Circular***

To Parents, Guardians and Custodians  
of Pupils/Students at  
General and Secondary  
Schools in Saarland

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Directorate C

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## **Information on the requirements of the German Infection Protection Act for school operation**

Dear Parents, Guardians and Custodians,

Today, 23 April 2021, the amended Federal Infection Protection Act (Infektionsschutzgesetz) came into force with the so-called "Corona Emergency Brake". It includes regulations that are also applicable to school operations in Saarland starting from a 7-day incidence of 100. In principle, the Federal State Government has decided additionally to continue alternate teaching at the schools initially until 8 May. With this letter we are informing you about the most important changes:

- **Extending compulsory testing to pupils in primary and special schools (Förderschulen)**

With the coming into force of the Federal Infection Protection Act, **nationwide compulsory testing applies at general and vocational schools and thus, with immediate effect, also for pupils of primary and special schools** (the implementation of the previous test procedure for the pupils will be maintained here: Physicians, pharmacists and professional personnel perform the smear test under medical supervision. Pupils who do not take part in the tests remain in home schooling.

- **What happens when the incidence exceeds 100?**

If the 7-day incidence in an administrative district (Landkreis) or in the regional authority (Landesverband) exceeds the threshold value of 100 on three consecutive days, **face-to-face teaching** is only permissible from the day after the next for general and vocational

schools **in the form of alternate teaching**. Since alternate teaching is currently being implemented nationwide, there is therefore no change in the local offers.

From a 7-day incidence of 100, it is compulsory for all passengers **to wear a respiratory protection mask (FFP2 or comparable) in public transport** and when **transporting schoolchildren**. For pupil/student transport, this shall apply from Monday. The necessary masks will also be procured in sizes suitable for children and made available to the schools as soon as possible.

- **What happens when the incidence exceeds 165?**

If the 7-day incidence in an administrative district or in the regional authority exceeds the threshold value of 165 on three consecutive days, **face-to-face teaching is prohibited** from the day after the next for general and vocational schools. The pupils/students will be taught by distance learning. Further information will then be provided.

**Exceptions apply to special schools and graduating classes:**

- The schooling models for the individual special schools are determined on a site-specific basis.
- The academic years 9 and 10 at the comprehensive schools as well as comparable academic years or learning groups at the special schools continue to be taught in the form of alternate teaching.
- At the vocational schools (berufliche Schulen), the students of the graduating classes of the technical secondary school (Fachoberschule), the technical colleges (Fachschulen), the vocational colleges (Berufsfachschulen), the higher vocational colleges (hoeheren Berufsfachschulen), the vocational schools (Berufsschulen), and the (vocational) training preparation (Ausbildungsvorbereitung) continue to be taught in the form of alternate teaching.
- For the 2022 school-leaving exam year, school-based face-to-face teaching takes place in the form of alternate teaching under the infection control measures in accordance with the current model hygiene plan. In this context, alternate teaching of a complete course can take place simultaneously in two groups of students who are spatially separated from each other. The same applies to the corresponding academic year at vocational schools.

If the 7-day incidence value in accordance with RKI (Robert Koch-Institut) in an administrative district or in the regional authority exceeds the threshold value of 165 on three consecutive days, legal guardians are again called upon to care for their children at home. **Emergency care** will be set up at the **schools**. The currently existing model will continue to be applied (**pedagogical offer in the morning; care in the afternoon**). Pupils who cannot be cared for at home or who do not have a suitable workplace for learning from home can also continue to be cared for.

**Emergency care** will also be provided at the **day-care centres (Kitas)**. It can be used in the same way as the pedagogical offer. **The Federal State will take over the parental contributions for the Voluntary All-Day School (Freiwillige Ganztagschule, FGTS).**

All **final examinations** will be carried out as scheduled in compliance with strict hygiene rules.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Elsner', written in a cursive style.

Karin Elsner

Deputy Head of Directorate C