

**Ministerium für
Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**



- Die Ministerin -

To all parents
whose children attend a school
in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

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**Prohibition of school attendance in the interest of containment of the respiratory disease
COVID-19**

14 March 2020

Dear Parents,

I am today addressing you in response to an exceptional situation. As you have probably already learned from the media, the State Government finds itself forced to ban children in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern from attending school during the **time period 16 March to 19 April 2020 inclusive**.

We intend to contain the further spreading of the respiratory disease COVID-19 as much as possible with this drastic measure and, above all, protect the elderly and persons with pre-existing illnesses against becoming infected. For the best possible results, we must all act together.

I can certainly imagine that you are now contending with a multitude of open questions. I would therefore like to contact you personally and inform you of the current situation.

You may initially be surprised that such a far-reaching decision has been made even though we in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern have so far, luckily, had a relatively low infection count. However, a short-term closure of schools is necessary, since only now, at the beginning of the spread, do we have the chance to contain it.

With this, **from Monday 16 March 2020** there will be **no more lessons** at schools in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. This applies to **public and private schools, as well as vocational schools**. With this, from this point in time, I am able to ensure supervision at your child's school only in emergency situations, which I will cover in further detail below. Students at vocational schools are asked to turn up at their training company on Monday.

If you practice a job which is necessary for safety and maintaining public security and order, and can find no other childcare option for your child, we will provide educational support services ("**emergency care**") for grades 1 to 6.

This essentially concerns the following sectors in particular:

- a) Fire brigade (professional firefighters and focus fire departments),
- b) Police,
- c) Prison service,
- d) Rescue services,

- e) Medical institutions, including pharmacies,
- f) Judicial institutions,
- g) Outpatient and inpatient care services,
- h) Inpatient care facilities (e.g. for educational assistants),
- i) Production and supply of daily required food and other products,
- j) Local and state authorities, authorities and organisations with security tasks, institutions and municipal companies with recognised necessary duties and general interest service duties (e.g. water treatment, waste water and waste disposal, public transport) which are imperative.

If you belong to one of these occupational groups and this means that “emergency care” is necessary for your children, please turn up at your child’s school on Monday and clarify how you will proceed further with the headmaster. In this sense, the 16th March serves as a day in which to ensure an orderly transition.

In addition to this “emergency care”, the headmaster of your child’s school should also be available for you as a contact partner during the lessons prohibition period.

With the support of the Ministry, the teachers will provide an appropriate form of materials for self-organised learning, as well as support students as best as possible with upcoming exam preparations. The form of the provision of learning content and the support given to students with upcoming exam preparations, shall be independently regulated by your child’s school. During evaluation of performance, the current situation should of course be taken into account, so that students will not suffer disadvantages related to their gradings as a result of missed lessons resultant of school closures.

Furthermore, we will provide you with information continuously, including current information on further developments, on the Internet page of the Ministry for Education, Science and Culture (www.bm.mv-regierung.de).

For urgent queries, a hotline for the Ministry for Education, Science and Culture has been created (Saturday 14 March 2020 from 11:00 to 16:00 and Sunday 15 March 2020 from 11:00 to 16:00). **HOTLINE: 0385-5887174**

Headmasters of schools, as well as the State school boards, shall be on hand to provide parents with information from Monday 16 March 2020 onward.

I hope that you deal well with the upcoming challenges, and ask for your understanding and cooperation in this situation which is difficult for everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Bettina Martin