



06. July 2020

Dear Parents

Because of the corona pandemic, the day care centres have been closed for the last months. Since the beginning of May, however, day care centres have gradually begun to resume their activities again. This process requires an overview of the infection process and careful consideration of risks. So far, we do not know much about the transmission risk of children. However, this risk appears to be lower than that of adults. We want to avoid a high burden for you, your children and the professional pedagogic staff. We need to know as much as possible about the regional infection process in order to be able to take measurements more precisely and have fast responses to any kind of infectious outbreaks.

That is why we need your help. The University of Bayreuth, the Hannover Medical School, the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, VW and the City of Wolfsburg will provide scientific support for the gradual resumption of normal operation in childcare facilities within the framework of two studies:

- The first study deals with the medical events on site and the supervision of children with symptoms.
- The second study investigates how you, your children and the educational staff experienced the closure of the KITA and the gradual openings that took place under the changed conditions.

## **Study on the experiences of parents, children and educational professionals**

### **What exactly is the study about?**

How did you and your children experience the reopening of day care centres? In what situations do you feel safe in this regard? At what moment, perhaps, rather anxious? How did you manage the situation? How did your child experience the time in the day care centres? These questions are important. Only with your help can we make a better assessment of the



situation, so that we can work together to better deal with the crisis. Taking into account your interests and the situations in which you find yourself, especially with regard to a so-called “second wave”. We would be very happy if you could tell us about your experiences in your everyday family life.

### **What is the course of the study?**

The social-empirical study intends to record and discuss your experiences and views. We would like to contact you by phone or video conference-tools (e.g. Zoom) , to talk about your and your children’s impressions and experiences. The talks will start on June 29 and last for about half an hour.

Your participation in this is of particular importance. It gives you the opportunity to share your impressions and experiences from the past 3 months with us, so that we can draw common insights from them in order to be able to react better to changing infection situations. This will strengthen the childcare for children, parents and the situation of educational staff.

### **Whom can I contact?**

If you would like to participate, you can contact your childcare manager or Ms. Motowidlo (jagoda.motowidlo@stadt.wolfsburg.de) from the Family Coordination Office of the City of Wolfsburg. With your permission, they will forward your contact details to the researchers at the University of Bayreuth. They will then get in touch with you to make an appointment.

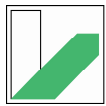
### **What happens with my data?**

A high level of confidentiality and the protection of your data are guaranteed at all times. Your personal data will only be stored for the period of collection in accordance with the data protection guidelines of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Your statements will be completely anonymized, and the recordings will be deleted after the evaluation has ended.

We look forward to your participation and thank you in advance for this important contribution.

### **Medical supervision of the further opening of the day care centres**

In addition to this interview study, the researchers will also provide medical assistance for the gradual opening of day care centres. In a first step, the researchers will test your children for COVID, when they show related symptoms. In the event of renewed cases, the results of these data can be used to react adequately and specifically to the individual cases of infection, and not all facilities need to be closed.



### What is the process of the accompanying medical study?

**Your help is crucial.** With this letter, you will receive a small "Elternbüchlein", in which you can enter your children's health changes and symptoms on a daily basis. If changes occur that indicate a possible infection, we will provide you with a contact person. For this purpose, a helpline will be set up, which you can contact if symptoms occur and you are unsure if this might be a possible infection. The helpline will be available from Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

The following symptoms might be an indication for a suspected case:

- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Difficult swallowing / reddened throat
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Inability to smell and to taste
- Nausea and vomiting

The hotline will connect you to a physician from Wolfsburg who will accompany the project. After the medical clarification by the doctor if COVID 19 is suspected, your children will be medically tested according to the currently usual procedure with the help of smears from the local health authority. Until the test results are available (you will be informed of the result within 48 hours), you and your children must stay away from the day care centres.

In order to have a good overview of the procedure and the respective contact points, you will find a **schedule** following this letter. Please act in the same way as we have described this for your children if you or another member of the family suddenly develops symptoms of illness.

With this medical support, we want to give you an opportunity to get a direct contact person in case of uncertainties and to know that the re-opening of day care centres is scientifically accompanied. In addition, we are all be better prepared for future developments. Of course, filling out the "Elternbüchlein" and taking part in the study remains voluntary. **With your participation, you are making an important contribution to improving the situation for you and your fellow human beings**

We thank you in advance and send

Kind regards

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. med. habil.  
Dr. phil. Dr. theol. h.c. **Eckhard Nagel**  
Universität Bayreuth

**Iris Bothe**  
Councilor for Youth, Education  
and Integration / City of Wolfsburg



Schedule for reporting a suspected case of COVID-19 in children of the day care centres in Wolfsburg within the "Sichere Kita – Projekt"

