

INFORMATION SUMMARY

How to deal with illness/cold symptoms in children in nurseries and childcare facilities

Information for parents, nursery employees, and childcare staff

When does a child have to stay at home?

If they are showing at least one of the following symptoms
(all symptoms must be acute / symptoms of a chronic illness are not relevant):

Fever of 38.0°C or more

Parents ensure temperature is measured correctly

Dry cough

Not caused by chronic illness such as asthma

(Head) cold

Without additional signs of illness
no reason to exclude

Yes

Does the child need a doctor?

If so, the parents must **telephone** their family doctor or paediatrician.

Yes

The doctor will decide whether a coronavirus test is needed

Please note: Between testing and receiving the result, the child must not attend the nursery or childcare facility.

No

No

Yes

Child stays at home

negative

The test result is ...

positive

The child has had no fever for at least 1 day and is in a good general state of health

A guide for parents:

My child's state of health yesterday was such that he or she could have gone to the nursery or childcare facility, so he or she can go back today.

Please follow the instructions from the public health department (*Gesundheitsamt*).

Yes

Yes

The child may attend the relevant facility again.

No doctor's certificate is required.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

How to deal with illness/cold symptoms in children in nurseries and childcare facilities

Information for parents and staff (see above)

The coronavirus pandemic is presenting us all with new challenges. Post-lockdown, now that we are re-opening nurseries and childcare facilities, we still have to deal with the conflicting priorities of protecting all those involved as much as possible while also upholding the right to education and state-provided care for children.

As was the case before the coronavirus pandemic too, **children that are clearly ill must not be taken to the nursery or childcare facility.**

As a fundamental principle, parents continue to be the ones who decide whether or not a child is ill. If children are brought to the facility and are obviously ill, or if they become ill whilst being cared for at the nursery or childcare facility, the facility can ask for the child to be collected.

What to do if symptoms occur

If one of the following symptoms – typical of COVID-19 – occur, then the child is not allowed to attend and must not enter the childcare facility:

- » **Fever (38.0° C or more)**
For parents: please check that you are carrying out the temperature measurement correctly depending on which method and device you are using to measure the temperature.
- » **Dry cough**
i.e. without mucus and not caused by a chronic illness such as asthma. A slight or occasional cough or occasional tickle in the throat does not automatically mean the child is excluded.

A (head) cold without additional signs of illness is expressly **not a reason for exclusion. According to the latest scientific findings, a cold is not a typical symptom of a Sars-CoV-2 infection in young children.**

Depending on how ill their child is, the parents decide whether or not to telephone their family doctor or paediatrician.

Managing the child's readmission to the nursery or childcare facility

If **no doctor is contacted**, the child must be free from fever **for at least one day and be in a good general state of health again** before he or she is allowed to return to the childcare facility. Here, the following has proved to be a good rule of thumb for parents: "My child's state of health today was such that he or she could have gone to the nursery or childcare facility, so he or she can go back tomorrow."

If the parents seek **medical advice**, then the doctor in charge of treatment will decide whether or not a SARSCoV-2 test should be carried out to detect the coronavirus. If **no test** is carried out, then the above requirements apply in respect of being readmitted to the facility (**free from fever for at least one day and in a good general state of health again**), or the specific instructions of the doctor must be followed.

If a test is performed, then the children must stay at home until the test result is received.

If the **test result is negative**, then once again the above requirements apply in respect of being readmitted to the facility (free from fever for at least one day and in a good general state of health again), or the specific instructions of the doctor must be followed.

If the **test result is positive**, then the following rule applies: **the public health department (Gesundheitsamt) decides when the child is allowed to return to a nursery/decides when quarantine ends.** The child must be free from symptoms for at least 48 hours and may return to the nursery or childcare facility no earlier than 10 days after the start of symptoms.

The general rule is as follows:

A negative virus test is not required for the child to be readmitted to a facility, nor is **a doctor's certificate.**

Additional information

Healthy siblings may continue to attend the nursery or childcare facility as normal as long as they have not had quarantine imposed on them by the public health department (*Gesundheitsamt*).

Instructions and regulations from the **relevant public health department (Gesundheitsamt)** must always take precedence.

Depending on the epidemiological situation and/or new scientific findings, it may be necessary to **modify the rules** at any time. They reflect the situation on 05.08.2020 in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.