

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Corona traffic-light system in lower Austrian state kindergartens



Dear parents and caregivers,

two concerns are in our focus with regard to the beginning of the next first kindergarten year: For the children and for you as a family, we want to offer as much normality as possible in the daily life of the kindergarten and at the same time ensure the health of all children and adults in Lower Austrian kindergartens through COVID precautionary measures that are adapted to the region.

For this purpose, a concept of measures was developed for the Lower Austrian state kindergartens based on the "Corona traffic-light system" of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. This means that the hygiene precautions in your kindergarten are based on the classification of the risk of infection in your district.

The kindergarten staff will inform you regularly about the current COVID prevention measures in your kindergarten - for example in the form of notices, e-mails, via the parent-kindergarten messenger "KidsFox" or via the parents' council.

In the following, you will find all the important information about the Corona traffic-light system in Lower Austrian state kindergartens. If you do not receive any other information from the kindergarten, your kindergarten will start with the GREEN traffic light phase in September.

We wish your child/children a good start and lots of fun playing and learning together in kindergarten.

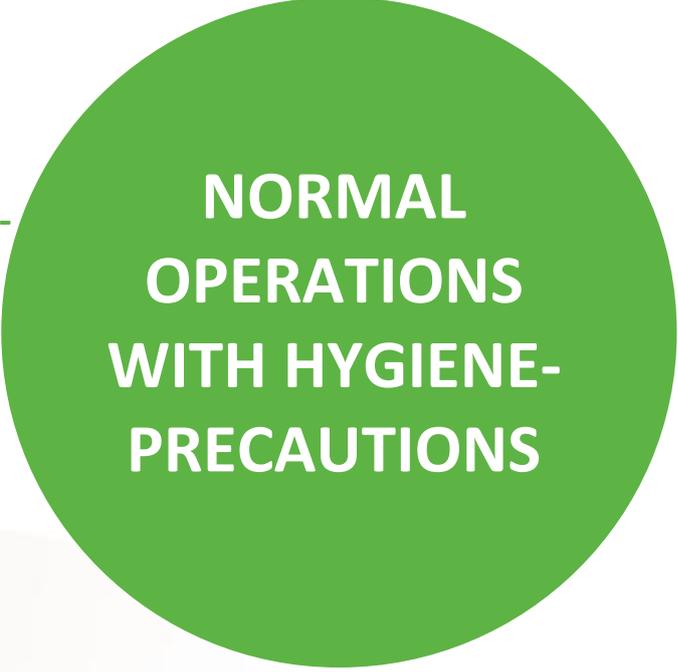


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The traffic-light phase **GREEN** means that “normal operations with hygiene-precautions” are being followed in the kindergarten.



NORMAL OPERATIONS WITH HYGIENE- PRECAUTIONS

What does that mean when dropping off or picking up your child?

- Parents/legal guardians can accompany their child into the kindergarten when dropping them off or picking them up.
- Please be sure to maintain distance and avoid crowded areas or group formations; observe and respect the guidelines for the entrance and wardrobe areas.
- Adults: Please disinfect your hands when entering the kindergarten.
- Children: Please wash your hands before entering your group's room.

In which group will my child be supervised?

- The children will be supervised in their regular home-groups.
- Cross-group activities can take place.

How can the settling-in process of my child take place?

- An accompanying person can accompany the child during the settling-in phase.
- After approval of the kindergarten staff, the accompanying person may remain in the group-room.

Are further precautionary measures in place in the daily life of the kindergarten?

- All children will be instructed regularly to wash their hands thoroughly.
- The rooms will be aired out regularly.
- Dishes, towels, drinking cups, soothers, etc. are not to be shared with other children.
- No setting up of toothbrushes.
- Surfaces such as door handles, toys and crafts will be cleaned regularly.
- More and more activities will take place outdoors. We therefore ask you to provide your child with weatherproof clothing

Will parent-evenings or other events be taking place in the kindergarten?

- Parents' evenings, celebrations and events can also take place in closed rooms in accordance with the guidelines for events: Maintain distance (to people who do not live in the same household), assigned seating, attendance lists (name, telephone number).

Can parent/teacher meetings take place?

- In compliance with the hygiene measures (maintaining distance, disinfecting hands when entering the kindergarten, regular airing out of the rooms), meetings can take place in the kindergarten.

The traffic-light phase **YELLOW** means that “normal operations with amplified hygiene restrictions” are being followed in the kindergarten.

Which additional precautionary measures will be implemented in the traffic-light phase YELLOW?

Mouth-Nose-Protection (MNP) for adults

- Parents and other visitors have a general MNP obligation in closed rooms of the kindergarten (e.g. when parents enter the building when dropping off or picking up children, or during meetings).
- For the kindergarten staff, there is an MNP obligation in closed common rooms (e.g. in the corridor, staircases, in the kitchen, etc.) There is no MNP obligation for kindergarten staff in contact with children. Kindergarten children are exempt from the MNP obligation.

Group changes will be avoided if possible

- The children are still supervised in their home group – cross-group activities in closed rooms will only be carried out if it is necessary for organizational or pedagogical reasons (e.g. learning workshop for children in the mandatory kindergarten year, language support, assembly groups in morning or afternoon care).

NORMAL OPERATIONS WITH AMPLIFIED HYGIENE- RESTRICTIONS

Parent evenings, celebrations, and events

- In closed rooms: MNP, when not seated or when maintaining the required distance is not possible.
- Events (e.g. celebrations) are - if pedagogically meaningful and organizationally possible - moved outside.

Singing, physical exercise

- Singing together is primarily offered outdoors.
- In closed rooms, singing is only done in small groups while maintaining distance requirements.
- Physical exercise will take place outdoors preferably.



The traffic-light phase **ORANGE** means that “operations with increased protective measures” are being followed in the kindergarten.

Which additional precautionary measures will be implemented in the traffic-light phase **ORANGE**?

Dropping off and picking up children

- Children are collected or handed over by the kindergarten staff in the entrance area.
- Parents or persons authorized to pick up children are only allowed to enter the closed premises of the kindergarten in exceptional cases (e.g. when children are being settled-in) and with the express permission of the kindergarten staff.

Supervision in small groups

- The children are looked after in small group constellations if possible - there are no cross-group activities.

Singing, physical exercise

- Sports and physical activities that lead to an increased breathing effort in children, as well as singing, are offered exclusively outdoors.

OPERATIONS WITH INCREASED PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Parent meetings

- will be made by telephone or if possible digitally or virtually (e.g. "KidsFox").

Parent evenings, celebrations, events

- cancelled or postponed to another time.



The traffic-light phase RED means that “restricted operations with increased protective measures” are being followed in the kindergarten.

Which additional precautionary measures will be implemented in the traffic-light phase RED?

“Restricted” operations

- The childcare services are guaranteed for those children whose parents/guardians do not have the possibility of providing care at home.
- The support is offered regardless of the type of professional activity of the parents/guardians or whether the work can be done in home office. No confirmations (e.g. from employers) need to be provided.
- Childcare is also provided for children with special needs.

Supervision in small groups

- The children are looked after in small group constellations as far as possible.

RESTRICTED OPERATIONS WITH INCREASED PROTECTION MEASURES

Compulsory kindergarten year

- The absence of children in the compulsory kindergarten year is permitted.





What to do in case of signs of illness?

For the protection of all children and adults in families and kindergartens, it is important that signs and symptoms of illness are handled with care. A medical assessment in the event of a well-founded suspicion provides reassurance for all.

- If your child shows symptoms in kindergarten, such as an elevated temperature of at least 37.9 degrees Celsius, shortness of breath, difficulty swallowing and/or stomach and intestinal problems, you as parents/guardians will be informed immediately. You will be asked to pick up your child and have the symptoms medically assessed. Until you pick up your child, your child will be cared for in a separate room in accordance with the rules of hygiene and distance. At the same time, the health authorities will be informed.
- If you observe the described symptoms in your child at home, we also ask you for a medical assessment before your child attends kindergarten again.

What do children need?

- Talk to your child about how the kindergarten routine will work. Give your child information about upcoming changes that you receive from the kindergarten in a way that is appropriate for the child.
- Listen to your child's thoughts, questions or concerns. Try to find honest and appropriate answers to your child's questions.
- Please contact the kindergarten team with any open questions or concerns.

With your support we can work together to ensure that everyone stays healthy and that the children in the kindergarten can play and learn together under as "normal" conditions as possible.

