



Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Office for Schools and Vocational Education

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To the
parents of the
pupils at all
general state schools

Hamburg, 28. April 2020

By email through the schools

Englisch / English

Current information on resuming teaching activities

Dear Parents,

After more than six weeks when the schools were largely closed, Hamburg is now beginning with lessons in its schools again, bit by bit. But the classes will not all be opened at the same time, nor will they be opened to the same degree. And the lessons in the opened classes will look different from before Covid-19. In this letter we would like to tell you about the most important news.

- On Monday 27.04.2020, classroom teaching began at schools for the following classes:
 - at district schools: Cl. 9, 10, 13 and IVK ESA 1/2, IVK MSA 1/2, IVK MSA+ and IBE.
 - at grammar schools: Cl. 9, 10, 12 and IVK ESA 1/2, IVK MSA 1/2, IVK MSA+ and IBE.
 - at the ReBBZs: Cl. 9 and 10.
 - Particular rules apply for special needs schools. Your school will let you know.

- On Monday 04.05.2020, classroom teaching also began at schools for the following classes:
 - at primary schools: Cl. 4, IVK 3/4 and basic classes 3/4 as well as learning groups in the initial reception premises.
 - at district schools: Cl. 12.
 - at grammar schools: Cl. 6 and 11.
 - at the ReBBZs: Specially regulated by the school supervision authority. Your school will let you know.
 - Particular rules apply for special needs schools. Your school will let you know.

With the exception of the Abitur classes and the 10th classes at the district schools, all classes mentioned in this letter will be receiving an offer of classroom teaching at least once a week until 25th May 2020. From 25th May 2020 onwards, they will be receiving roughly half of their weekly lessons in the school, with the other half in distance learning format as before.

From the 25th May 2020, that is after the May holidays, the pupils in all other classes will also be given five or six periods of classroom lesson at least once a week.

The classes will be divided into smaller groups, as not more than 15 pupils may study together in the same room. These new smaller groups will always consist of the same people. No changes are possible here. Your school will let you know when, and in which group, your child will be having lessons at the school.

The Education Authority and the schools have drawn up strict hygiene plans to keep the chances of infection as low as possible. Your school will let you know about the specific rules. In general, the following applies for all pupils in Hamburg when they come back to school:

Observing personal hygiene measures

- With any symptoms of illness (e.g. fever, dry coughing, breathing problems, loss of sense of taste and/or smell, sore throat or aching limbs) always stay at home.
- Always keep a distance of at least 1.5 metres from other people
 - on the way to school or on the way home,
 - in the school playground, in the recreation hall and in the classroom,
 - also in greetings between pupils and between teachers.
- No touching mouth, nose and eyes.
- No touching, embracing or shaking hands.
- Only one pupil may go to the toilet at any one time.
- Wash hands with soap for at least 30 seconds after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing for example, after any contact with public objects, before and after eating and after using the toilet.
- Disinfect hands on entering the school:
 - Apply the disinfectant to dry skin and massage it into your hands for 30 seconds,
 - Also disinfect the mobile phone.
- Don't touch any door handles with your hand: better to use your elbows.
- Always cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow or a paper handkerchief. Always throw the dirty handkerchief into a bin.
- Mouth and nose protection: You may turn up for lessons and exams without a mask, but pupils can also bring everything with them for themselves if they feel more secure that way. If a mask is worn, it is important:
 - to wash and disinfect hands when the mask has been taken off or put on.
 - to put the mask in a bag or wash it straight away after it has been taken off.
 - to wash the mask at a temperature of 60 degrees every day, then dry it.

Protection against infection in class

In the classrooms at school, the pupils' and teacher's work places must always be separated by a minimum of 1.5 metres from each other. Each group will always only have lessons in one single room. Each pupil will be given their own fixed workplace. The pupils do not exchange any objects (such as books or pens) between each other or share their use. Sports lessons currently do not take place.

Protection against infection in the breaks

A distance of at least 1.5 metres must also be kept between all people in the breaks. For this reason, the breaks will also proceed differently from the way the pupils have been familiar with to date. The precise regulations in your school will be told to your child by their school.

Protection against infection at school lunches and in the supply of drinking water

The drinking water fountains in the schools may not be used. So please provide your child with sufficient water for their whole day at school. Whether and how lunch will be possible will be explained to your child in detail at your school.

Pupils who are at higher risk

If your child has one or more underlying health conditions that mean that they are assessed as at special risk from a Covid-19 infection, you child can initially remain at home until the end of the 2019/20 school year and take part in the distance learning programme. Among the high-risk groups are:

- diseases of the heart (e.g. coronary heart disease, valvular heart defect, high blood pressure)
- diseases or chronic diseases of the lungs (e.g. COPD), the liver or the kidney
- diabetes mellitus
- cancer
- a weakened immune system (corresponding illness or medication)

The same applies if your child lives in a household where people live who would be particularly in danger if they had a Covid-19 infection, e.g. when their father or mother has to take immunosuppressive drugs after an organ transplant. In this case you, as their parent, make an application to your school to relieve your child from taking part in the classroom lessons. Convincing documentation must be provided to show the existence of any previous illness or special vulnerability of that person. This can be done, for example, by presenting a severely disabled person's or transplantee's identification card or a credible written explanation of the reason for the risk.

An extended option for emergency care

As well as the step-by-step start of obligatory teaching there is still also the option for pupils of all ages, including those over 14, to receive emergency care. You can take advantage of this emergency care if you are unable to cope in your home and family environment or find yourself in a psychologically stressful situation. In this case, please contact your child's class manager to discuss the situation. You will need to give signed permission to the school for your child to attend emergency care.

Pupils from shared classes are brought together here into regular learning groups that follow the same guidelines as the compulsory classes. This produces integrated work in the school and home context, with the tasks being the same as for those pupils who work with a complete home-schooling package.

I am very happy that the first pupils will now be able to meet their friends and teachers at school, get talking and learning together again. We are still faced with plenty of challenges, but I am optimistic that we will be able to solve these together with responsibility for each other.

Your

Thorsten Altenburg-Hack