Additions: Office of Elementary Education

https://vsa.zh.ch/internet/bildungsdirektion/vsa/de/aktuell/unterrichtseinstellung.html

HOTLINES / CONTACT:

Parent counseling: Parent emergency number 24/7
Tel.: 0848 35 55 00
E-mail: 24h@elternnotruf.ch

Corona-Hotline (daily 07.00 to 23.00 h): 0800 044 117

Is the municipality obliged to set up additional child care services because of corona?

On March 3, 2020, the government Council of the Canton of Zurich has issued a decree obliging the municipalities to ensure a minimum level of childcare provision:
This particularly ensures the care of the children of parents whose work is indispensable for the provision of the population.

The principle that no child can be left unattended keeps applying. In individual cases, child care can therefore be provided in additional emergency situations. In case of doubt, please consult with the Office of Elementary Education.

In addition, the municipalities are obliged to ensure a minimum level of childcare provision for pre-school children. In the pre-school sector, they can oblige private funding bodies to run a day care center.

Which professions are covered by the term “indispensable for the provision of the population”?

For elementary schools, the ordinance means:

– Students are looked after at home whenever possible.
– Children of parents, whose occupation is indispensable for the provision of the population, are looked after in school if the parents notify a need.
This includes the following occupations:

- Health, nursing and geriatric care
- Security (police, fire brigade, law enforcement, military, civil defence, community service)
- Transport (public transport, taxi and private buses if it is for basic supply)
- Infrastructure (energy and water supply, waste disposal, telematics, cleaning excluding cleaning in private households)
- Logistics (including food supply and supply of other essential goods to the population)
- Public administration or institutions with a public mission (in so far as the exercised task is indispensable),
- Media (excluding advertising and communication agencies)
- Children of parents, who rely on child care for important reasons will be looked after as well. The latter particularly suggests itself for reasons of child protection, i.e. for children in socially or educationally difficult familial circumstances or children, for which external child care was ordered by the Child and Adult Protection Services (KESB).

How much time must the child care cover?

The provision of care is based on the parent's evidenced needs and can cover morning care, lunchtime care, care during class schedule time and afternoon care.

Must child care be provided during vacations as well?

Yes, the “minimal” child care defined in the ordinance of the Government Council of the Canton of Zurich has to be provided during vacations too.

Does the ban on assembling more than five people also apply to child care?

As long as one doesn't spend time in public areas with the children, this ban does not apply. Nonetheless, the Office of Elementary Education recommends to limit the group size to max. five children in child care as well.