

Ministry of Education, Science and Culture Mecklenburg-
Vorpommern · D-19048 Schwerin

To the
pupils of the public general educational and
vocational schools, and their
parents/guardians

Schwerin, 14 December 2020

**Waiving of compulsory attendance from 16 December 2020 to 8 January 2021
- Schools remain open for years 1 to 6 - distance learning from year 7 onwards**

Dear pupils,
Dear parents/guardians,

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we have all experienced a year that has involved many restrictions and unique challenges. Thanks to your support, we have been able to maintain reliable school operations since the summer. Everyday school life has become often different and more complicated due to the necessary hygiene rules. However, thanks to their high level of discipline and sense of responsibility, teachers and especially the pupils have made possible the regular daily operation of the school under pandemic conditions. This is a great achievement and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts.

Unfortunately, the number of infections has risen alarmingly in recent days and weeks. Even though Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is still one of the states with comparatively low numbers, the situation here is also worrying. Yesterday therefore, the Chancellor and the heads of state governments agreed on comprehensive regulations to reduce contacts in all areas of society. Even though scientific evidence shows that schools are still not responsible for driving the spread of infection, the

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period from 16 December 2020 to 10 January 2021 must also be used to significantly limit contacts. I would therefore like to inform you about the measures that will be in place during this period.

From 16 December 2020, it is no longer compulsory to attend school. Pupils from year 7 onwards will study at home using distance learning.

For pupils in years 1 to 6, the schools remain open in principle. However, I would like to ask you - as far as you are able - to look after your children at home during this time. All pupils will be given work by teachers to complete at home for the period up to 8 January 2021.

If you are not able to look after your children at home, these pupils will be supervised by teachers at school while they complete their work.

Whether at home or at school, the pupils will be working on the same tasks that they receive from their teachers. The teachers will plan and prepare for distance learning, create home learning packs, and advise and support the learners.

Supervision at school will be in classes, but not following the current timetable. There will be no physical education classes.

In all school buildings, from 16 December 2020, it will be compulsory for all persons employed at school to wear a face mask at all times, including during lessons. For pupils, the regulations regarding face masks at schools remain unchanged for the time being. Regardless of this, it is strongly recommended to maintain social distancing where possible.

In order for your school to be able to organise supervision of the children up to 8 January 2021, I would like to ask you to advise in good time, if possible by e-mail, whether or not your child will be attending school during this period.

For children attending school, regular school transport will continue as usual throughout the state.

At this point, a note to you, dear pupils, who are working towards your school-leaving certificate this school year: We will do everything we can to ensure that you are well prepared for your exams in spite of the difficult situation. The aim is for the final year classes to be considered separately from 11 January 2021 and to prioritise their return to face-to-face teaching. You will receive further information on this in the first week of January 2021.

Dear pupils, dear parents, in view of the infection figures, it is unfortunately necessary that this period of protective measures is also implemented at our schools in the state. I sincerely ask for your understanding that together we must now do everything we can to ensure that the infection figures are reduced again. By abiding by the rules, you can all play your part in ensuring that our schools can reopen in their usual form as soon as possible.

I wish you and your family - in spite of everything - a peaceful and wonderful Christmas season and a good start in 2021. But above all: Stay healthy!

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bettina Martin', written in a cursive style.

Bettina Martin