

**To the parents and legal guardians of the  
pupils in Bochum**

**Der Oberbürgermeister**

**Dezernat IV  
Bildung, Kultur und Sport**

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[www.bochum.de](http://www.bochum.de)

Datum und Zeichen Ihres Schreibens

Mein Zeichen (Bei Antwort bitte angeben)

Bochum, den

IV

04.05.2020

**Reopening of schools**

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Dear parents,

The ministry of school and education of North Rhine-Westphalia has decided to resume teaching at schools gradually – at first exam classes of secondary schools I and II as well as graduate classes. We, as the City of Bochum, cooperate fully with school administrators to enable the start of school as smooth as possible. In order to achieve this we do rely on your help:

**According to current scientific knowledge, the safest way to protect people from infections is compliance with recommended hygiene- and behaviour rules. Therefore, I kindly ask you to explain to your children the recommended distance rule, proper and thoroughly hand washing and also the “cough- and sneeze etiquette”.**

As the school board we are responsible for the provision of school rooms and cleaning of buildings. We have ensured that sufficient quantities of soap and paper hand towels are available to all schools. Furthermore after reopening of school there will be a daily cleaning of all contact areas with special disinfection cleaning supplies. This is in addition to the regular floor cleaning at an average of 2.5 times per week.

At all schools, an additional cleaner – the so called “daily help” – will be present continuously during school times. This cleaning person ensures the constant availability of soap and paper hand towels in toilets and removes particular dirt on time if necessary.

We support schools that hygiene standards as published by the Robert-Koch-Institute can be implemented. However, the organization of school operations, the implementation of lessons and the compliance to applicable hygiene rules (such as distance and hand hygiene) are the responsibility of the respective school administrators.

In addition to the extended cleaning measures all schools receive hand disinfectants. However, it shall be used only under supervision and if necessary. Due to fire hazard caused by disinfectants and the painful experience with the fire at the “Bergmannsheil Infirmary” in September 2016 we asked schools for a very conscious use of disinfectants.

You will find attached to this letter a leaflet of the most important rules as a reminder. In addition you will find the information poster attached that is already in use at the schools.

Further information on Corona and hygiene measures can be found at the website of the Federal Centre for Health Education [www.infektionsschutz.de](http://www.infektionsschutz.de).

Do you have any questions or comments on cleaning at schools? Please do not hesitate to write an e-mail to [buergerinfo@bochum.de](mailto:buergerinfo@bochum.de).

I wish you all the best for the coming period.

Yours sincerely



Dietmar Dieckmann  
Councillor for culture, education and sport of the City of Bochum

## Leaflet on the reopening of schools in Bochum

(As of 28 April 2020)

### 1. Are sick pupils/teachers/care persons allowed to come to school?

Sick pupils should stay always at home! In this special situation this should be also considered for light common colds without fever. Staying home does not apply for hay fever or similar, not infectious diseases. Teachers or care persons should stay at home in case of disease symptoms (especially colds).

### 2. Is a washbasin necessary in every (class-)room?

No, but if a washbasin is available in a (class-)room, it should be used and liquid soap and disposable towels should be made available. This enables supervising of handwashing. As a teacher/educator please pay attention to wash your hands regularly according to the recommendations of the Robert Koch-Institute and supervise your pupils to do so too. Please remember to wash hands after blowing the nose or before meals.

### 3. Are (cold) water and soap sufficient to eliminate viruses?

Yes, outside of healthcare facilities there is no additional disinfection required. **Thoroughly hand washing is perfectly sufficient!** The temperature of water does not play a part to the cleaning effect.

It is not recommended to combine hand washing and hand disinfection as it would be harmful to the skin.

### 4. Are enhanced cleaning cycles required?

A cleaning should be done daily after end of school. Special measures are not necessary. A daily cleaning of hand contact surfaces like doorknobs, tables, toilet facilities, banisters etc. is especially important. Floors must be cleaned too but do not matter in virus transmission..

### 5. Is it necessary to disinfect (class-)rooms or surfaces at school?

A routine surface disinfection in domestic and public areas, and of frequent contact surfaces, is not recommended during the current COVID pandemic. An appropriate cleaning is much more suitable. A disinfection can be considered if there is a visible soiling with possible infectious material, like saliva, faeces or vomit. There is no need to disinfect a school before reopening.

**6. Is hand disinfectant in schools required?**

No. According to the Robert Koch-Institute consequent hand washing with water and soap is an effective measure against the transmission of pathogens outside of medical institutions. Of course, all washing facilities should be equipped with liquid soap and disposable paper towels.

**7. Which towels should be used?**

The use of paper-disposable towels is recommended and preferred. Alternatively, reusable towels can be used if they are personalized and washed regularly. However, in this case it must be ensured that these towels are only used by one person. This may be difficult in daycare centres.

**8. How much distance must does one have to keep in a school bus?**

If possible, please keep the recommended distance of 1.5 meter. If this is impossible, wearing a self-made mouth-nose-protection can be considered, but is not required.

**9. Is there a special distance required for certain risk groups (e.g. a severely multiple disabled person)?**

No, the minimum distance of 1.5 meter protects independently of certain risk groups.

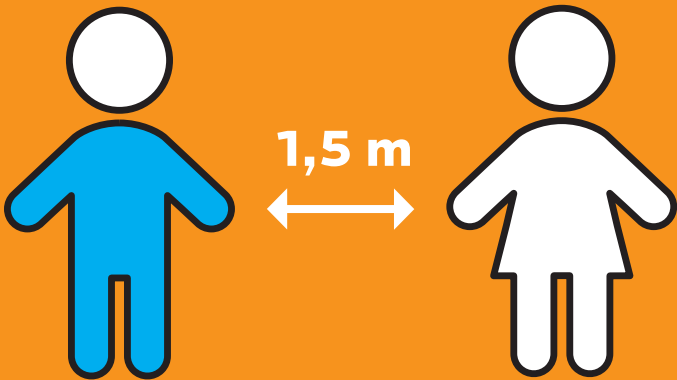
**10. Do pupils/teachers/care persons need to wear mouth-nose-protection?**

No, according to current knowledge this is not required when the distance rule is observed. In compliance with recommendations (minimum distance, thoroughly hand washing, cough etiquette etc.) the transmission risk is low. A self-made mouth-nose-protection can be worn, depending on personal sense of security, but it is not mandatory.

**11. Is airing of (school-)rooms necessary, and if so how long does a room need to be aired?**

For improvement of air quality in (class-)rooms inrush airing or transverse ventilation is recommended. Please observe safety rules when airing a room. It is recommended to air a room in the presence of a teacher at the beginning or end of a lesson. A regular air exchange in (class-)rooms is to be observed. The time required depends on individual spatial situations e.g. is transversal ventilation possible. There is an adequate air exchange if forced ventilation (e.g. air conditioning or other ventilation technologies) are in use.

# Hygiene-Regeln



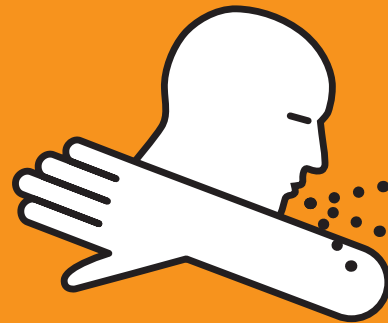
**Mindestabstand einhalten**



**Nur aus der eigenen Flasche trinken**

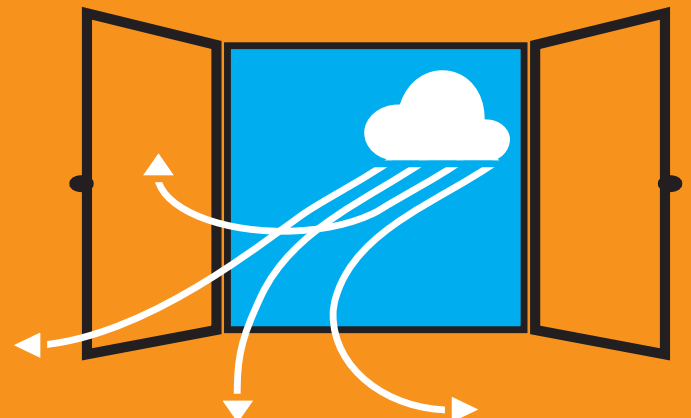


**Gründlich & regelmäßig  
Hände waschen**



**In die Armbeuge  
husten und niesen**

**Nähere Infos unter  
[www.bochum.de/corona](http://www.bochum.de/corona)**



**Regelmäßig Räume  
lüften**