

## **Revised PROTECTION CONCEPT valid from 04 October 2021**

In accordance with the current requirements of the Federal Council and the Canton of Zurich's Education Authority (VSA) of 24.09.2021, we have adapted the protection concept for our Montessori schools "d'Inslé" and SPRUNGBRETT. This version of the protection concept is valid until revoked due to deviating requirements by the federal government or the canton of Zurich.

### **1. Principles and goals**

Despite increasing vaccination rates and moderate case numbers, the protection against infection with COVID-19 of children, parents and school employees is still a matter of concern to us. Because the number of cases among elementary school students increased slightly after the start of the new school year 2021/2022, the VSA has adjusted the protective measures for the elementary school levels. Furthermore, our primary goal is to prevent a renewed spread of the Corona virus and its mutants. For this reason, the previous basic distance and hygiene regulations - especially for all persons who have not yet been vaccinated - will continue to be maintained. Likewise, the rules of contact tracing and quarantine in the event of a positive test continue to apply.

We are happy and grateful that we have been able to permanently educate our children in face-to-face classes for more than a year now. However, we would like to go a step further towards normality with certain relaxations, in that not only the middle school students, but also the teachers and caregivers with COVID certificates are largely exempt from the mask requirement.

In the area of supplementary school services, where additional care (after-school care) has already been resumed for some time, leisure courses have also been possible again since the new school year. Below you will find the currently valid guidelines for everyday school operations, which will come into force on Monday, 04 October 2021.

### **2. Organization lessons**

Classes will be held in all departments as face-to-face classes in the usual group composition and according to the regular timetable for the 2021/2022 school year. Gymnastics and swimming lessons will also be offered again on a regular basis. We reserve the right to make changes due to space restrictions or personnel limitations.

Students who are unable to attend classes due to illness, quarantine or other serious reasons will receive a homework folder once a week. Distance learning may be offered at the primary level if the teachers' workload permits; however, there is no entitlement to this. Individual solutions in individual cases will be discussed directly with the school management.

At the beginning of the school year and after all school vacations, the children are made aware of the need to keep their distance, both from each other and especially from adults with whom they are not familiar. This is done in a pedagogically sensitive and factually well-founded manner so as not to instill a general fear of other people in the children.

### **3. Daily structure**

#### **3.1. Arrival**

From experience, there is a natural staggering of time when children are brought in due to the flexible school start, which is why no special precautions need to be taken at the large locations Signaustasse 7 and 9. This problem does not arise at SPRUNGBRETT with its decentralized locations. We continue to ask especially the parents of older children to stay in the car, let their child get out alone and walk to the entrance. Younger children will be met by a teacher or caregiver at the entrance.

Parents and visitors will still not have access to the school premises unless they have explicit permission or invitation from a teacher, or the school administration. When entering the school premises, all parents and visitors wear a mask.

#### **3.2. Lunch**

As in previous months, lunch will be served in the dining room of the school and children's house. To avoid queues, the children sit down at the tables and are served cutlery, a drink and a scooped plate at their place by the after-school caregivers - self-service is still excluded for hygienic reasons! Therefore, there is no salad buffet available, but the children will be served a menu salad in small bowls. Meal times are according to the usual schedule. Pre-Kindergarten children will eat in their own rooms as usual.

After lunch and teeth brushing, the children return to their classrooms. Each day, before or after lunch, each department goes to one of the surrounding parks for exercise and fresh air. Internal coordination ensures that no more than one group from our school is in the same park at the same time.

#### **3.3 Pick-up**

Parents who are waiting for their child **in front of the entrance** to the building of the individual locations during pick-up are advised to observe the distance rule of 1.5 meters or to wear a mask for their own protection. In order to avoid large gatherings of people during **pick-up at Signaustasse 9** (school building "d'Inslé"), pick-up times will continue to be staggered here:

- On Monday, Tuesday and Friday: **GS2** at 15:45, **GS1** and **MS** at 16:00.
- On Wednesday and Thursday: **GS2** at 12:45, **GS1** and **MS** (Wednesday only) at 13:00.

We ask you to keep to the specified pick-up times as closely as possible.

#### **4. Supplementary care**

The pre-kindergarten care program takes place according to the regular program and schedule. Of course, all protection and hygiene measures (see 6. below) also apply in the pre-kindergartens, but are implemented there in an age-appropriate manner.

Regular additional care is provided from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; evening care until 7:00 p.m. is also offered by appointment. The contractual registration and payment conditions with flat-rate care or vouchers apply. If possible and depending on the number of children, the children in the after-school care are only cared for together within one building unit.

#### **5. Additional offers, courses and events**

The offer of **group leisure courses** is available again since Monday, 06.09.2021. As far as possible, attention is paid to spacing among participants indoors. The **Gymi preparation course** for 5th and 6th grade students will also be offered regularly again. The regulations according to the announcement, which were the basis for the written registration of the children in the individual courses, apply.

Individual **instrumental lessons** have also been offered again since the beginning of the school year; the individual agreements made with the music teachers apply. The **support lessons** in the "Lernstübli" have also been available again since the second week of school.

The organization of **school trips** and larger events is possible again within the framework of the federal guidelines regarding safety precautions. Corresponding plans are to be submitted to the school management in good time so that the specific protective measures to be taken can be determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the current situation.

**Internal events** (meetings, workshops, training sessions) may be held with a maximum of 50 people. If the distance cannot be maintained among the participants, the wearing of a mask becomes mandatory indoors, unless all those present are holders of a COVID certificate. Indoor **parent-teacher conferences** are limited to 50 people including children. Since schools where compulsory education can be completed may not have a certificate requirement for attendance at parent events, all participants wear a mask. For **larger events** with an indoor audience, the following principle applies: maximum of 250 people or 2/3 of the regular room capacity; everyone sits and wears a mask. Consumption indoors is only allowed in a seated position; the regulations of the catering industry apply.

#### **6. Protective and hygienic measures**

The known general hygiene measures are still valid:

- Keeping distance (especially among adults, usually 1.5 meters)
- Greetings without shaking hands
- Wash hands regularly (at least 30 seconds) or disinfect hands.
- Coughing / sneezing into elbows
- **Sick people stay at home!** (in case of symptoms such as fever, cough, etc.)

To ensure the safety of children and staff, we continue to adhere to the following **rules**:

- **Access to school rooms** is generally reserved for staff and our children/students. Parents and visitors, however, may enter the rooms upon invitation or with the permission of a teacher or the school administration. Contact details of visitors from outside the school must be collected and made known to the school management (ensuring contact tracing). Parents and visitors wear a mask indoors.
- Cafeteria and guest restrooms remain off-limits to parents and pick-up visitors unless they are in the school building for an extended period of time with permission.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance to each location.
- To avoid aerosol concentrations in the school rooms, **regular ventilation** during lesson times is ensured. In larger rooms with high occupancy rates, air scrubbers can be used on a rotating basis.
- Frequently used surfaces such as stair railings, doorknobs, etc. will be cleaned regularly with a disinfectant.
- The **Montessori materials** must not be cleaned with disinfectants, because otherwise the varnish can be damaged. Moreover, this is not necessary because the children wash their hands thoroughly with soap before working, as well as before lunch and after each visit to the toilet. Montessori has developed its own hand washing exercise for this!
  
- **Hygiene masks:**
  - **Children** of all our school levels definitely do not have to wear masks after a ruling of the Administrative Court of the Canton of Zurich declared this to be inadmissible.
  - The **pedagogical staff** (teachers, caregivers) do not have to wear hygiene masks during lessons, even indoors, as long as they have a COVID certificate or participate in weekly repetitive tests.
  - For **contacts with non-school personnel** (e.g., talking with parents, prospective students, visitors, etc.) that are prolonged and occur at a distance of less than 1.5 meters, all parties involved will wear a hygiene mask.
  - **Parents** are free to decide whether to wear a mask when bringing, but especially when picking up their children if they are unable to comply with the distance rules. Wearing a mask is mandatory when entering the school premises.
  - In accordance with food service regulations, **kitchen staff** will wear gloves and a sanitary mask while working in the kitchen and dining room. During meal preparation and serving, after-school care staff also wear a mask.
  
- **Repetitive Testing:**
  - **Elementary and middle school children** whose parents have given permission, as well as all **educational staff** who do **not** have COVID certification, participate in weekly repetitive testing. This ensures that a potential source of infection cannot spread undetected.
  - All employees who **neither have a COVID certificate nor participate in weekly repetitive tests wear a mask at all times** indoors. Exceptions are made on the basis of medical instructions.
  - The repetitive tests are free of charge for the participants because they are organized by the school and financed by the canton.

## **7. Employees of the school**

All employees are strongly recommended to get vaccinated as soon as possible in order to support the school's protective measures in the best possible way and at the same time to benefit from the facilitations of a COVID certificate.

Employees who belong to a risk group but are unable to be vaccinated are also still required to provide face-to-face teaching in accordance with VSA directives. However, their protection can be ensured by the use of specific protective measures (masks, visors).

All employees, especially those in face-to-face teaching and supervision, are **obliged to report health problems**, especially if they involve single or multiple typical Covid-19 disease symptoms, to the school management immediately and **before entering the school premises**, and to consult a doctor immediately or to undergo a PCR test. They will not be allowed to enter the school premises until the test result is available, which they must report to school management immediately. In the event of a positive test result, contact tracing will be carried out by the CT Center for Schools of the Canton of Zurich (cf. 8. below).

## **8. Procedure in case of suspected COVID-19 disease**

**The following applies to employees as well as children and their parents: Anyone who exhibits typical Covid-19 illness symptoms** (e.g. cough, sore throat, shortness of breath with or without fever, fever sensation or muscle pain and/or sudden loss of sense of smell or taste) **should immediately seek medical attention and be tested for COVID-19.**

In the event of a positive test result, the report is automatically sent to the Contact Tracing Center for Schools of the Canton of Zurich, which subsequently orders all further measures to be taken: Self-isolation for infected persons; quarantine for persons who had close contact with the infected person, whereby this applies up to 48 hours before the onset of symptoms in the infected person (incubation period). For persons with COVID certificates, contact tracing may provide relief (e.g., no quarantine). Parents of both schools are still obliged to report positively tested children or father or mother **immediately** to the school management and **exclusively by e-mail** on [schulleitung@dinsle.ch](mailto:schulleitung@dinsle.ch).

Zurich, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 / JRS