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WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT AGAINST INFECTIONS
Instruction for Parents and other Guardians of
Communal Facilities
pursuant to § 34 Para. 5 No. 2 of the German
Infection Protection Act

In communal facilities such as kindergartens, schools and summer camps, there are many people in a limited space. Consequently, infectious diseases can spread very easily in such places.

For this reason, the Infection Protection Act contains a number of provisions that are designed to protect all children and also the staff in communal facilities against infectious diseases. We wish to inform you about these by means of this **Fact Sheet**.

1. Legal Prohibitions on Attendance

The Infection Protection Act stipulates that a child **may not go to kindergarten, school or any other communal facility** if he/she is suffering from certain infectious diseases or an illness of this type is suspected. These diseases are listed in **Table 1** on the following page.

In the case of some infections, it is possible that your child excretes pathogens after having suffered the disease (or more rarely, without having been ill). In this case, too, playmates, classmates or staff members may be infected. In accordance with the Infection Protection Act, it is therefore stipulated that the **carriers** of certain bacteria may be allowed to return to a communal facility only with the **approval of the Health Authority** and in **compliance with the specified protective measures** (Table 2 on the following page).

In the case of some particularly serious infectious diseases, your child must even stay at home if **another person in your household** is ill, or if one of these infectious diseases is suspected (Table 3 on the following page).

Of course you are not expected to recognise the illnesses mentioned by yourself. But in the event that your child is seriously ill, you should seek medical advice (e.g.: if they have a high temperature, are noticeably tired, vomit repeatedly, have diarrhoea or other unusual or worrying symptoms). Your paediatrician will inform you whether your child has a medical condition that prohibits attending a communal facility in accordance with the Infection Protection Act.

There are vaccinations available to protect against some of the diseases. If your child is adequately vaccinated, the Health Authority may waive prohibiting attendance.

2. Obligation to Notify

If your child is prohibited from attending for the reasons mentioned above, **please let us know immediately and give us details of the illness in question**. You are required by law to do so and contribute to helping us and the **Health Authority** to take the necessary measures to prevent the illness spreading further.

3. Prevention of Infectious Diseases

In line with the Infection Protection Act, communal facilities are obliged to educate people on general measures to prevent infectious diseases.

We encourage you to pay attention, among other things, to the fact that your child complies with the general rules of hygiene. These are primarily **regular hand washing** before eating, after using the toilet or after outdoor activities.

It is equally important that your child is **fully vaccinated**. Vaccinations are also partly available against those diseases that are caused by pathogens in the air and thus cannot be avoided by general hygiene measures (e.g.: measles, mumps and chicken pox). For more information on vaccinations, please visit: www.impfen-info.de.

If you have any further questions, please contact your family doctor or paediatrician, or local Health Authority. We will be pleased to help.

Table 1: Prohibition of attendance of communal facilities and guardians' **obligation to notify** in cases of suspected infection or infection by the following diseases

• impetigo (impetigo contagiosa)	• polio (poliomyelitis)
• infectious pulmonary tuberculosis	• head lice (if the correct treatment has not yet been started)
• bacillary dysentery (shigellosis)	• scabies
• cholera	• measles
• gastroenteritis caused by EHEC	• meningococcal infections
• diphtheria	• mumps
• jaundice/hepatitis caused by hepatitis viruses A or E	• plague
• meningitis caused by Hib bacteria	• scarlet fever or other infections due to the bacterium <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>
• infectious diarrhea (caused by viruses or bacteria) and / or vomiting (only applies to children under 6 years of age)	• typhoid or paratyphoid fever
• whooping cough (pertussis)	• chickenpox (varicella)
	• viral haemorrhagic fever (e.g.: ebola)

Table 2: Attendance of communal facilities only with Health Authority approval and obligation to notify by the guardians in the case of carriers of the following pathogens

• cholera bacteria	• typhoid or paratyphoid fever
• diphtheria bacteria	• Shigella bacteria
• EHEC bacteria	

Table 3: Prohibition of attendance and guardians' obligation to notify in cases of suspected infection or infection by the following diseases in another person in a household

• infectious pulmonary tuberculosis	• meningitis caused by Hib bacteria
• bacillary dysentery (shigellosis)	• polio (poliomyelitis)
• cholera	• measles
• gastroenteritis caused by EHEC	• meningococcal infections
• diphtheria	• mumps
• jaundice/hepatitis caused by hepatitis viruses A or E	• plague
	• typhoid or paratyphoid fever
	• viral haemorrhagic fever (e.g.: ebola)