

## English translation of the press release

Liestal, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Gradual loosening of the pandemic restrictions

### Getting back to school

**On the basis of the Federal Council decision of 29<sup>th</sup> April, public schools in the Canton of Basel-Landschaft will resume teaching in the classroom on 11<sup>th</sup> May. A comprehensive protection plan is being put in place to support this return to school.**

On 11<sup>th</sup> May, primary and secondary school pupils in Basel-Landschaft will return to lessons in the classroom. The Directorate for Education, Culture and Sport (BKSD) is taking this step as part of the gradual loosening of the pandemic restrictions, thus enabling schools to resume their function as a place for children and young people to learn and spend time together.

#### **A comprehensive protection plan**

According to the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (BAG), children fall sick with Coronavirus far less frequently than adults and are not believed to be a driver in the spread of the disease. The Federal Council is therefore permitting pupils to return to school, provided that the requirements of the national protection plan are fulfilled. Under this plan, the current rules on distancing between pupils have been lifted. The plan sets out hygiene and protective measures and defines the arrangements for running schools under these unusual circumstances.

On this basis, the Directorate for Education, Culture and Sport has drawn up a cantonal protection plan for its schools. Its primary objective is to protect pupils and school staff as well as people who fall into risk categories.

#### **Obligation to attend school**

As a general rule, the obligation to attend school applies. Teaching will take place in the schools according to the usual timetable and in the usual class groups. As well as primary and secondary schools, permission to reopen has also been granted to music schools, boarding schools and special schools. The Directorate for Education, Culture and Sport looked very closely at the option of working with half classes. However, in view of the current low rate of infection, the serious organisational and pedagogical challenges associated with splitting up classes, and the indeterminate duration of the Coronavirus crisis, it was decided that schools should resume with full classes.

#### **Childcare establishments to return to normal**

At the same time as children return to class in public schools, it is also intended that childcare establishments, after-school care structures and childminders should largely resume normal operation, provided that they comply with the hygiene rules set out by the Federal Office of Public Health and other protective measures. Parental fees for the month of May will continue to be waived for those unable to use childcare services because of Coronavirus.

This translation has been prepared by HSK English for the convenience of English-speaking readers. The German version remains the official, authoritative document.