

SWR, 18 June 2020

- <https://www.swr.de/swraktuell/rheinland-pfalz/kultusministerkonferenz-hubig-corona-hygiene-regelbetrieb-schulen-100.html>

– Translation by Kilian Bluemlein, 86 AW/PA

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## **SECRETARY OF EDUCATION HUBIG AFTER MEETING WITH STATE SECRETARIES OF EDUCATION**

### **Rules for Physical Distancing will be rescinded**

**The physical distancing rule is to be abolished in order to have schools resume regular operations after summer recess. Rhineland-Palatinate State Secretary of Education Hubig informed that other hygiene rules are also to be adjusted.**

The State Secretaries of Education have agreed that regular school operation should resume after summer recess with according to applicable time tables to assure the right of education. This means that lessons for the class will be given in the schools. The physical distance rule of 1.5 meter will be abolished said Stefanie Hubig, Chairperson of the Conference of State Secretaries of Education (KMK). But a prerequisite is that development of corona pandemic will allow for that, said the SPD politician.

### **Work Safety is to be taken into Focus**

Besides that hygiene measures in schools will be adjusted for all. KMK will timely agree on a common scope for updated measures of protection and hygiene. It were important to focus on work safety and to comply with provisions.

### **Labor Union Members and Virologist see KMK Plans with Skepticism**

Entire normal school operation is seen critical by labor unions and by virologists as in this case many hygiene measures would have to be implemented said Chairman of Labor Union Erziehung und Wissenschaft/GEW [Education and Science K.B.] Klaus Peter Hammer. He were very concerned that rules could not be complied with, Hammer told SWR. And one could not foresee what will happen during vacation.

Virologist Bodo Plachter from the University Clinic in the City of Mainz explained that there were not a complete picture on how dangerous school could be for spreading of corona virus. There are no reliable data at hand. He considers school lessons with face coverings as an option.

This Thursday the Secretaries of Education met in a video conference to negotiate further steps. Expert matter specialists of education were also heard.

Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) and the State Prime Ministers approved resumption of regular school operations on Wednesday.

### **School Reports during Corona Crisis without Disadvantage**

With respect to Rhineland-Palatinate Hubig continued that students should get a school report at the end of the school year, but that they should not take any detriment caused by corona crisis. Teachers should arrive at marks based on accomplishments made by students in class during the second half of the school year and based on marks which were proposed for the first half of the school year with consideration of the corona period.

As of June 18, 7.15 p.m.