



August 25, 2016

## Exemptions Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 2

### Policy and Procedure Review

In keeping with our theme over the last several newsletters, we will continue to look at the Exemption requirements as stated on our website. We'll look at requirements #5 & #6 in this edition.

*Requirement #5 states: "Any program granted an exemption from licensure that subsequently loses accreditation, closes and/or ceases operation shall notify the department in writing within five (5) business days of such a change. A program granted an exemption that has subsequent material changes in the operation of their program, such as, but not limited to, a change of physical location, a change in operating months, days, and/or hours, or a change in the ages served shall be required to submit a new application for exemption to the department."*

Programs are granted exempt status based on information submitted by the program to DECAL. Therefore, if your program changes in any way, you must reapply for a new exemption. Exemption approvals are **site specific**, meaning that if your program moves from the location on your approval letter and exemption certificate, you no longer have a valid exemption. This could result in an unlicensed complaint or other complications.

Also, exemption approvals are **owner specific**, meaning that if the person listed on the application as the owner or the person responsible for the program leaves or changes, you no longer have a valid exemption.

All changes in your program must be reported to DECAL's Exemption Unit via a new application. The application for exemptions can be found on the DECAL website.

*Requirement #6 states: "Programs granted an exemption may be required to periodically update the department on the status of their exemption and operating information such as but not limited to submitting an annual report that would contain information related to the exemption approval"*

We continue to work on ensuring updated information in our exemptions database. Our exemption rules changed in December 2012. If DECAL approved your program's exemption BEFORE January 2013, you need to update your exemption application and supporting documentation. Or if it has been awhile since you have communicated with DECAL, you may need to update your application and supporting documentation. If you are unsure of your current exemption status, contact us at 770-293-5977, and we'll let you know what you need to do to retain your exemption approval.

[Visit our website](#)





Remember...A new school year brings both excitement and anxiety...for all involved. One way to help is to establish routines:

1. **Morning routine**—getting dressed, getting breakfast and getting the day's necessities ready.
2. **Homework routine**—establish homework rules. Will homework need to be done first thing after school or after a play time break? Will homework be done on Friday or can it wait until Sunday night?
3. **Bedtime routine**—getting ready for bed, getting homework completed and getting tomorrow's necessities ready.



Speaking of routines, having a new morning routine can throw you off your game. When you arrive at your destination, always look again for children in your vehicle. When your vehicle is not in use, keep the vehicle doors locked. For more information, check this out:

[Visit our website](#)



#### Tip of the Month

Each month CCS distributes the Tip of the Month to explain and clarify health and safety regulations. To access these tips, go to the Tip of the Month library on DECAL's website at the following link:


[Tip of the Month Library](#)

Georgia has its very own free text service for parents of four and five years olds!

Thanks to the Georgia Department of Education and Stanford University, parents can receive tips, facts and resources to help get their child ready for kindergarten.

The service is available in both English and

**PARENTS OF 4 & 5 YEAR-OLDS**  
**TEXT GAREADY4K TO 313131**  
TO RECEIVE TIPS, FACTS & RESOURCES FOR PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN



**GET GEORGIA READING**

FREE TEXTS MADE POSSIBLE BY A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Spanish.

To join, just text "GReady4K" to 313131 for texts in English and "GAREADY4KESP" to 313131 for Spanish.

## Summer Exemption Visitation Project



### We Want to Meet You!

We appreciate your cooperation in allowing access to your program and in responding to the consultants' questions. Accurate, current data will help us serve Georgia's children and families and support your programs more effectively. If you have any questions about these visits, contact Amy Page, Project Coordinator, at [amy.page@decalfga.gov](mailto:amy.page@decalfga.gov) or 706-867-3285.

If you have questions about your current exemption or need to report operational changes, contact the Exemption Unit at [ccsexemptions@decalfga.gov](mailto:ccsexemptions@decalfga.gov) or 770-293-5977.

In May 2016, DECAL consultants began visiting exempt child care programs to capture routine health and safety data. These visits will continue through the end of 2016. We assure you: these visits do NOT jeopardize your current exempt status or your involvement with any other DECAL programs in which you might be participating.

The exemption application can be downloaded from the DECAL website at: <http://www.decalfga.gov/CCS/Exemptions.aspx>

## What You Should Know About Zika Virus



Zika is a virus that is thought to spread to people through mosquito bites. The illness is usually mild, with symptoms lasting from several days to one week. About one in five people infected with Zika virus develop symptoms. Hospitalization is not common. The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are: fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Other common symptoms can include muscle pain and headache. Zika virus is thought to be primarily transmitted through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes, which are aggressive daytime biters. Zika is especially dangerous to women who are pregnant or who may become pregnant.

### How can Providers limit the spread of Zika Virus Infection?

- No vaccine exists to prevent Zika virus infection.
- Mosquitoes that spread the virus bite mostly during the day.
- Make sure there is no standing water near your center or outside play areas.
- Dress children in clothes that cover arms and legs when they're going outside, if possible.
- Stay in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Use EPA registered insect repellents, with parent permission.
  - o Follow label instructions.
  - o Reapply as directed.
- If you are using sunscreen and insect repellent, with parent permission, apply the sunscreen before applying the insect repellent.
- Spray insect repellent on your hands and then put it on a child's face being careful to avoid the mouth and eyes.
- Don't use insect repellent on babies younger than two months.
- Don't put insect repellent onto a child's hands, a cut, or irritated skin.

Information Source: Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response

### Additional Information

## The At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program



Does your organization operate an after school program and provide a structured and engaging enrichment or educational activity for students at the end of the school day? If so, you may be eligible to participate in the **At-Risk Afterschool** component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program is a child nutrition program that reimburses eligible after school programs for serving meals and snacks in accordance with USDA meal pattern requirements in low-income neighborhoods. Approved programs are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to one meal and/or snack served per day to participating students.

Public or private non-profit organizations or for-profit organizations providing eligible child care services and operating an after school program may participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program if they meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Programs must be located in an attendance area of a public school where at least 50 percent of the enrolled students receive free/reduced-price meals.
- Programs must provide educational and/or enrichment activities in an

organized, structured, and supervised environment.

For additional requirements and information on required training, visit DECAL's website via the link below. To register for At-Risk Afterschool Training, call **Leslie Truman at (404) 657-1779**.

[Visit our website](#)

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