



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 656-5957

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

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Guidance for Child Care Programs Remaining Open During COVID-19

As of this writing, Governor Kemp has not mandated a statewide closure of early learning providers but has explained his position that these decisions are best made at the local level in consultation with local health departments.

This document provides guidance to providers choosing to remain open. DECAL is committed to supporting all providers during this emergency and is working to identify resources for you and is reviewing policies and rules that we can temporarily “relax” to help you continue to serve families in your communities. DECAL has also identified several “best practice” suggestions that can help providers remain open during this time.

In addition to the guidance below, DECAL has created a webpage at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/BFTS/Covid19.aspx> that includes Frequently Asked Questions we have received and other miscellaneous information:

- Urge families to stay home if anyone in the home is ill.
- Prioritize child care for families most in need, including people required to work on COVID-19 response (healthcare workers, first responders, etc.)
- Stagger drop off and pick up times to lessen the chance of groups of people being present
- Consider allowing only child care staff in the building. Parents/guardians would drop children off at the door.
 - If this is implemented, be sure to communicate this new procedure with parents and give an estimated timeframe that the procedure will be in place.
- Restrict outside volunteers and visitors.
- Upon arrival to the program, take every person’s temperature with a thermometer that does not touch the skin
 - A temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit could indicate a fever, but this varies in young children.
- Children and staff should be excluded from attending for seven days after illness, or at least three days without a fever, whichever is longer AND resolution or improvement of respiratory symptoms.
- Follow your center’s policies, procedures, and emergency preparedness plans.

- Clean high touch areas every 30 minutes with a disinfectant (see DECAL FAQ for disinfectant alternatives).
- Increase handwashing in addition to what is required in the rules and regulations.
- Avoid using aerosol disinfectant (Lysol spray) while children and staff are present in a classroom.

Please continue to visit the following websites: the Governor's Office, Georgia Department of Public Health and the CDC for the latest and most accurate information.