

Dear Pre-K Provider,

This afternoon President Trump declared a National Emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak for which our country and state are taking unprecedented mitigation measures to reduce the spread of the virus. The COVID-19 situation is fluid: information is rapidly evolving, and the guidance being provided is subject to change. Therefore, to access the most current status of facts and advice regarding this respiratory disease, DECAL suggests the following websites:

Center for Disease Control (CDC) @ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

GA Department of Public Health (GPH) @ <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>

Many of you likely watched Governor Kemp's Thursday afternoon press conference at which he announced that State offices would remain open for business and that access for our customers/clients will not be impacted. DECAL is open and ready to assist you.

Governor Kemp asked local leaders to take measures to mitigate the spread of the virus at the community level. I know many of you are considering closures of Pre-K classrooms as part of those measures. Please consider the following in your decision making.

1. Neither the Governor nor DECAL is mandating closure of Pre-K programs. This decision is to be made by each grantee.
2. DECAL will not adjust Pre-K payments due to COVID-19 closures. Further, payments will be made on schedule.
3. At this time, DECAL is not requiring make-up days for COVID-19 related closures up to 10 school days. DECAL will provide additional guidance regarding closures beyond 10 school days on or before March 30th.
4. Programs are required to pay Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teachers during COVID-19 closures.

Please see the attached Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document for additional guidance. This FAQ will also be posted on the DECAL website and updated periodically.

Your well-being is important to us. Please continue to follow the CDC prevention guidance:

- Wash your hands
- Use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- If you have recently traveled to areas where there are ongoing outbreaks of COVID-19 and develop fever with cough and shortness of breath within 14 days of your travel, or if you have had contact with someone who is suspected to have COVID-19, stay home and call your health care provider or local health department right away. Be sure to call before going to a doctor's office, emergency room, or urgent care center and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our work and the children and families we serve.

Stay well,

Susan Adams
Deputy Commissioner
Pre-K and Instructional Supports