



**Brian P. Kemp**  
*Governor*

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
*Commissioner*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Statement on Georgia Department of Public Health  
Administrative Order issued 3/27/2020**

**Attribute to Amy M. Jacobs  
Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

“On Friday, March 27, 2020, the Georgia Department of Public Health issued an Administrative Order pursuant to Governor Brian P. Kemp’s March 23, 2020, Executive Order closing bars and nightclubs, limiting large gatherings, and calling for “shelter in place” for medically fragile populations in response to COVID-19. This Administrative Order, which takes effect March 28, 2020, at noon, directs all early education programs licensed by DECAL to maintain full compliance with all DECAL directives and guidance. It further instructs all visitors, staff, and children in these facilities to be screened prior to entry and excluded if they have a fever above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or exhibit respiratory symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath. The Administrative Order also confirms that a “single location” doesn’t just mean an address, but any space where people are gathered. To meet this requirement, child care programs must ensure that groups of 10 or less children and staff are in self-contained classrooms. To further assist child care providers, Governor Brian P. Kemp and DECAL worked together on a March 24, 2020, Executive Order relaxing some rules and regulations including options for programs to restrict access; options to offer families temporary relief from immunization requirements; suspension of field trips; and reduction of staff needing CPR training. At DECAL, our top priority is the health and safety of our state’s young learners.”

## **About DECAL**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).