

# EXEMPTION NEWS YOU CAN USE!



It is indisputable that summer is one of our most beloved and exciting seasons in the Exemption Unit. This newsletter will highlight some of the safety measures we encourage everyone to use as resources for a safer and better summer experience.



During the week of May 22-26, 2023, Governor Brian P. Kemp proclaimed, 'Look Again Week.' in Georgia, raising "Public awareness of the dangers of vehicular heatstroke and of simple prevention strategies can save lives. The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, along with the State of Georgia, is committed to eliminating child vehicular heatstroke deaths in childcare, at home, and elsewhere."

Commissioner Amy Jacobs said "Look Again" is a message not only for childcare programs and teachers but for anyone caring for a child – parents, grandparents, other family members, neighbors, and friends – to always account for the children in their care as they drive them from place to place. "When you arrive at your destination, check the front and back of your car, and after you've looked, just to be sure, LOOK Again. There is absolutely no reason for a child to suffer or die in these conditions," she stressed. It is important to perform 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> safety checks to prevent any possible tragedies or incidents of this nature.

- NEVER leave a child alone in a vehicle.
- ALWAYS LOOK again.
- ALWAYS keep the vehicle locked.
- CALL 911 if you see a child left alone in a vehicle.



## CPR/AED AWARENESS WEEK

June 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

The American Heart Association has launched a movement to double survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest. As the heat index rises during the summer researchers from the National Institutes of Health have linked extreme temperatures to a national average of 1,651 annual cardiovascular deaths.

Most people who experience cardiac arrest at home, work or in a public location die because they don't receive immediate CPR from someone on the scene. If you see a teen or adult collapse, call 911 and push hard and fast in the center of the chest.

Hands-Only CPR CAN SAVE LIVES.

### WATCH THIS VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/dbw4Whd0bJ0?si=rVpJ5l-kaFveH4Vv>

(right click on the link, then open hyperlink)



### AS A REMINDER:

DECAL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS  
JUNETEENTH: JUNE 19, 2024  
INDEPENDENCE DAY: JULY 4, 2024

**Free Trainings:** GEORGIA CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCACY is offering a Summer Series. Please register by copying/pasting the link for the training if you would like to attend.

## SUMMERTIME CALLS FOR FIELD TRIPS

### SCHOOL BUS SAFETY- (LARGE/SMALL)

#### Georgia Law:

- School buses are **exempt** from using Child Safety Restraint Systems (CSRS) based on Georgia law. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommends that preschool age children on a school bus be secured in a CSRS if seat belts are available or an add-on seat.
- Not every CSRS will fit in school buses due to narrow spacing between seats.
- **No booster seats are allowed on a school bus.**

#### Best Practice:

- Place preschool age children in CSRS.



### 12-15 PASSENGER VANS SAFETY

#### Georgia Law:

- All children and youth **under the age of 18** must be in an approved safety restraint.
- Children under age 8 and 4'9" (57 inches) **must be in an approved car seat or booster seat.** The car or booster seat must be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Children and youth aged 8 through 17 must be in a safety belt.
- **All children** must be in the **back seats.** \*

#### Best Practice:

- For children ages 8-12, a safer alternative to using a lap/shoulder belt is to use a booster seat until the child reaches **a height of 4'9" or 57 inches.** If the seatbelt is resting across the child's neck, he or she should be in a booster seat.
  - **Children under age 13** should ride in the back seat.
  - A properly fitted seat belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash.
- It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.**

### SHUTTER BUS

#### Georgia Law:

- Shuttle buses do not conform to School Bus Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS).
- Should **NOT** be used for child care transportation.
- May have features that appear similar to a MFSAB, but **DOES NOT MEET** same safety standards.

#### Best Practice:

- Choose another transportation option – Multifunction School Activity Bus (MFSAB) or School Bus.



## SUMMERTIME OUTDOOR SAFETY

The outdoor learning environment offers many opportunities for children to develop their physical, social, and cognitive skills. Exploring the outdoors sparks children's curiosity and creativity. Infants should spend at least one hour outside each day, and children ages one and older should spend at least one and a half hours outside each day, weather permitting. The time children spend outdoors can be broken up into smaller chunks throughout the day (e.g., 45 minutes spent outdoors before lunch and 45 minutes outdoors after nap). To ensure children's safety while playing outside, caregivers should consider:

- Protecting children from the sun and encourage them to drink water. Water is the best drink for children and teens. Even mild dehydration can lead to fatigue, mood disturbances, headaches, and learning problems.

### JULY IS UV SAFETY AWARENESS



### August IS National Immunization Month



#### National Immunization Awareness Month

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes the month of August as a highlight of the importance of routine vaccinations for all people. Feel free to share their list of MyHealthfinder [vaccine resources](#) to help people protect their health and stay up to date on their vaccines. And explore the Healthy People 2030 [vaccination objective](#) and evidence-based resources on [vaccination programs](#) that can be implemented in various settings.

## We Want to Hear from You!

How can we serve you better during the exemption application process?

Systematically what problems are you experiencing while completing the online application process?

Your response can help us have a better understanding of what you need so we can make the exemption application process easier.

Feel free to contact us!

**E-mail:** [ccsexemptions@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:ccsexemptions@dec.al.ga.gov)  
**Voicemail:** 770-293-5977.

## DECAL Social Media



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

[www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov)

## General Information for Exemptions

Any changes to the exemption program should obtain approval from the Department prior to making any alterations to the existing approved exemption(s).

If the program changes require a different Exemption category classification, a new Exemption Application must be submitted to the Department through DECAL KOALA.

If the program plans to change location or ownership, a new Exemption Application must be submitted to the Department through DECAL KOALA.

All other changes require submission of an Exemption Amendment through DECAL KOALA.

If a program is found to be operating outside the conditions of a previously approved Exemption, an Unlicensed Complaint Investigation may be conducted, and/or the Exemption may be rescinded. The program may then choose to immediately begin the licensing process or change the program to meet Exemption criteria.

## Health and Safety Trainings are NOW available on GaPDS!

The trainings are listed as:

- Health and Safety: Child Development* 6 hours
- Health and Safety: Health and Nutrition* 5 hours
- Health and Safety: Safety and Emergency Preparedness* 4 hours

Program staff will receive 15 hours of training credit for taking all three training courses, which will exceed the 10-hour Health and Safety Requirement for licensing/license exempt programs that receive subsidies from CAPS (categories 1 & 7). Please note: ALL three trainings must be taken to meet the Health and Safety Orientation requirement.

Registration for training courses in GaPDS closes 24 hours prior to the date of the training. It is recommended to register before that 24-hour time window in order to guarantee training registration.

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Free On Demand Webinars are available at:

<https://abuse.publichealth.qsu.edu/training/webinars>

Tips for a STEM Summer Program That Kids Love:

**Get outside + Be hands-on + base lessons on sports.**

*Curious how? Bring STEM and sports together for active, fun, summer learning kids truly enjoy.*

Ctrl + Click on the link below for more information

<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?u=https://2a0/26/2fucmynhah.aa.r56>

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