



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement on Governor Brian P. Kemp's
April 2, 2020 Shelter in Place Order for the State of Georgia
and its impact on child care in Georgia**

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

“On Thursday, April 2, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp issued an [Executive Order](#) to Ensure a Safe & Healthy Georgia, known to many as Shelter in Place, effective beginning Friday, April 3rd, at 6:00 PM and expiring Monday, April 13th, at 11:59 PM. This Executive Order allows for all licensed child care facilities to remain open; however, the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) requests that providers prioritize care for children of the Critical Infrastructure Workforce. Continuing with previous guidance, the Executive Order limits no more than ten (10) persons, including caregivers, from being present in one location. For child care learning centers, a location is a classroom with four full walls and a door. For family child care learning homes, a location is the home. Any county or municipal order that limits or prohibits the operations of child care directly conflicts with the Executive Order and is deemed invalid. DECAL supports all members of the early childhood community whether they had to make the difficult decision to close or if they remain open.”

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.