

March 13, 2020

Dear Child Care Providers:

In a recent news conference, Governor Brian Kemp expressed his support for local communities' decisions to close schools and child care programs. The Governor did NOT say, however, that local school systems and child care programs MUST close. The decision to close schools or child care programs is up to local authorities and local business owners like you if you determine that closing your program is in the best interest of your children and families.

If you choose to close your program for an extended period, please let your CCS consultant know as soon as possible.

The CDC says coronavirus outbreaks in young children are uncommon, and severe symptoms are even more rare. Even so, to prevent the spread of illness, observe the following:

- Continue to monitor the children in your care for signs of illness including fever, cough, difficulty breathing, body aches, fatigue, sore throat, headache, and diarrhea.
- Continue to encourage good health practices such as appropriate handwashing; covering coughs or sneezing with a tissue; and regularly disinfecting surfaces.
- Ensure that your program enforces the rules prohibiting children and staff who are sick or who show symptoms of illness from being in child care facilities. If they are sick, they should stay home.

The Governor and the Georgia Department of Public Health have emphasized that the most vulnerable people at risk for COVID-19/coronavirus are adults age 60+ with underlying chronic conditions. This would be a good time to check on older family members or neighbors to make sure they are aware of this pandemic and have everything they need including food and prescriptions.

If you have any further questions, e-mail us at childcareservices@decals.ga.gov.

For the latest and most accurate updates, visit the following websites: the Governor's Office, Georgia Department of Public Health, the CDC, or DECAL at www.decals.ga.gov.

Thanks for all you do for Georgia's youngest learners and their families. Let's do everything we can to keep them informed, healthy, and safe!

Sincerely,



Pam Stevens
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services