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Nancy T. Buckner
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM
March 13, 2020

To: Child Care Providers

From: Faye Nelson, Deputy Commissioner 
for Family Resources

Subject: Coronavirus Information (COVID-19)

The Alabama Department of Human Resources is diligently monitoring the COVID-19 information that is being released from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

The attached guidelines are being sent to Child Care providers for information on the Coronavirus as it relates to our State. The CDC has released guidance on infection prevention and control recommendations. The most current information on COVID-19 can be viewed at www.cdc.gov. Likewise, COVID-19 information related specifically to Alabama can be accessed at www.alabamapublichealth.gov.

FN:ap

cc: Commissioner
Deputy Commissioners
District Administrative Specialists
SDHR Legal
Child Care Management Agencies (CMA)

Attachment:
Child Care Providers Coronavirus Guidance

Child Care Providers Coronavirus Guidance

This newsletter is being sent to child care providers for information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as it relates to our State. We are working closely with our state and local health departments to determine how to support local child care programs throughout Alabama. It is our top priority to provide as much support as possible so that children, providers, staff, and their respective communities are safe. The guidance that follows is not comprehensive but is meant to serve as general direction that will connect you to officials and resources to address any needs or questions that you may have about the Coronavirus.

1. Work with local health and emergency management authorities to develop a Coronavirus action plan. The CDC has released guidance on infection prevention and control recommendations. The most current information on COVID-19 can be viewed at www.cdc.gov and at www.alabamapublichealth.gov.
2. Work with local emergency management officials to include your child care program in the community response plan
3. Ask for direction from your local health department regarding closure of child care programs based upon established disease containment protocols
4. If a case is confirmed in your area, contact your local health department for direction and ongoing communication
5. Educate staff on signs and symptoms of Coronavirus and inform staff to remain alert for signs of Coronavirus. Make sure that staff performing observation for Coronavirus are following the most up to date, reliable resources from state and local healthcare authorities. Communicate with your local health department regarding any findings that you may discover.
6. Continuously promote preventive hygiene practices such as hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning frequently touched areas such as desks, door knobs, washing hands after using the restroom, changing diapers... Frequently remind children and staff to follow these practices. For further guidance visit the Alabama Department of Public Health website or your local public health department.
7. Identify any children or staff who may be at greater risk for serious illness such as: chronic illness, compromised immune systems, etc. Encourage staff and parents to talk with their health care providers regarding special precautions including advising on whether they should keep their children out of child care.