

Coronavirus/COVID-19 and Schools

gadoe.org/coronavirus

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is working closely with the Office of the Governor, the Georgia Department of Public Health (GaDPH), and other agencies to ensure local school districts, parents, and students have the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 (commonly called coronavirus). State School Superintendent Richard Woods is a member of Governor Brian Kemp's Coronavirus Task Force, and GaDOE's Office of School Climate and Safety is communicating daily with GaDPH and its Commissioner, Dr. Kathleen Toomey.

GaDOE has distributed detailed guidance to school districts on the preparations they should take to prepare for the potential spread of COVID-19, and is distributing the most up-to-date guidance from GaDPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as it is released. Answers to other frequently asked questions are below.

Where can I find additional information and resources about COVID-19?

You can find the most up-to-date guidance from the Georgia Department of Public Health at dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus. You can find the most up-to-date information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at cdc.gov/coronavirus. You can view information and updates from the Georgia Department of Education, including guidance released to schools, at gadoe.org/coronavirus.

What can my student and I do to stop the spread of COVID-19?

- Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school.
- Teach your children to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and stay away from other people until they are better.

What should I do if my child exhibits symptoms?

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Richard Woods, *Georgia's School Superintendent*

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Contact your doctor, a local public health clinic, or the local board of health. The Georgia Department of Public Health is currently advising that individuals who have traveled from affected countries/areas in the past 14 days and have a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing should seek medical care, and should contact their healthcare provider and inform them of their travel history before going in.

Will my child's school close?

The Georgia Department of Education is following the direction of the Georgia Department of Public Health regarding school closures. We are also advising local school districts to follow the direction of their local board of health. At this time, the Georgia Department of Public Health has advised us that students who are not ill can safely attend schools. We are in regular contact with GaDPH and will immediately inform school districts if their recommendation changes.

What will the Georgia Department of Education do to help students continue learning if schools close?

We are advising school districts to develop a plan, if possible, to continue student learning should they need to close for several days, using resources such as study packets, cable access, virtual school/online classes, etc. GaDOE's Office of Teaching and Learning is compiling virtual educational resources that will be provided to support schools' efforts.