



3/16/2020

The Smart Place is announcing a mandatory closing of the center until further notice

**RE: COVID-19 response and HCBS Operations As of March 13, 2020**

President of the United States has issued a State of National Emergency. Further, the CDC recognizes waiver populations as ones who are in extreme danger of contracting COVID-19. The health and well-being of the Department of Community Health's (DCH) members, their families and its providers are of paramount importance. The following is specific guidance related to the daily operations of Home and Community Based Service providers including work performed under the Money Follows the Person grant during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) period. This guidance will discuss ongoing work performed within member's homes, Home Delivered Meals, Adult Day Health facilities and screening/assessments within nursing facilities. This guidance is subject to change as additional information becomes available. Healthcare providers who suspect COVID-19 infection in a patient should immediately report their concerns to the Georgia Department of Public Health ("DPH") by calling 1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584). You should ask for a Medical Epidemiologist.

We have been committed to keeping our community updated about the rapidly developing situation with COVID-19. Gov. Kemp communicated the following, **"Given the rise of the coronavirus, I am going to issue a call to action. If local communities feel it is prudent, you should consider closing day cares and schools as early as tomorrow through the next two weeks."**

Adult Day Health Facilities Please monitor members for possible symptoms and notify the DPH of any concerns. In light of the recognition of the current national state of emergency, particularly as it relates to this population, DCH strongly recommends that this population avoid group settings and practice social distancing. All other providers please use best professional judgement if you are required to visit a member's home. Providers are encouraged to use if applicable, telephonic and/or electronic visual tools to remain in contact with members. DCH will provide up to date information as it is received via Banner Messages on the GAMMIS provider portal and through the DCH website. Please note that the Department of Public Health is the lead agency for any information for Infection control for general reference and guidance.

Please continue to follow all state recommendations for your safety. We will be updating all individuals and parents/caregivers via our website and verbal communication.

God Bless,

The Smart Place