



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

SCHOOL CLOSURES TO STOP SPREAD OF COVID-19

- WHEREAS:** On March 14, 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19 on the State of Georgia, I issued Executive Order 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia General Assembly concurred with Executive Order 03.14.20.01 by joint resolution on March 16, 2020; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 is spreading through Georgia communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The number of COVID-19 cases in Georgia continues to rise; and
- WHEREAS:** Further action is necessary to protect the health and safety of the population of Georgia, slow the spread of COVID-19, reduce the number of people who will become infected, and avoid unnecessary strain on Georgia's healthcare system; and
- WHEREAS:** During a state of emergency, Georgia law vests the Governor with powers and duties as may be deemed necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population; and
- WHEREAS:** Code Section 38-3-51(d)(1) vests the Governor with the power to suspend any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster; and
- WHEREAS:** In consultation with the Governor's Coronavirus Task Force and local, state, and federal education, health and emergency preparedness officials, I have determined that closing all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary public schools in Georgia is a necessary and appropriate action to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Georgia's residents and visitors to help control the spread of COVID-19 throughout this State.