

Dear Families,

We hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

All of us at the Department of Education (DOE) have been so proud to witness the joy of children and educators reuniting and learning together this year. All along, we have kept health and safety at the forefront of everything we do.

Given recent increases in COVID-19 transmission, public school buildings will transition to remote learning beginning Thursday, November 19. While all school buildings will be temporarily closed, DOE early childhood programs in community-based organizations and family child care homes will remain open for in-person services. **You are receiving this letter because your child attends an early childhood program that will remain open for in-person services during the temporary school closure.**

We know that early care and education for your child is essential, and want to assure you that your family's safety remains our top priority. We are supporting your child's program to maintain a safe environment for learning at all times. For more about the health and safety practices in place at early childhood programs, you can review the [Health and Safety Guidance for Early Childhood Families](https://bit.ly/ECEathome) at bit.ly/ECEathome.

Here are some important reminders for your family:

- Your child, and the staff at their program, have **priority access for COVID-19 testing** at 22 City-run testing locations, and tests will be provided free of charge and with expedited results. For more information, you can visit the [Health and Safety page](https://schools.nyc.gov/returntoschool2020) on the DOE website (found at schools.nyc.gov/returntoschool2020).
- If your child is attending a **Learning Bridges program**, it will also remain open during a temporary school closure. You can learn more about Learning Bridges and apply at schools.nyc.gov/learningbridges or by calling 311.
- Continue practicing the **"Core Four:"** wash your hands, wear a face covering, keep six feet of distance from others, and stay home if you're feeling sick.

We will continue to provide updates, supporting you and everyone in the DOE family as this public health crisis continues to evolve. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's program with any questions or concerns. We are grateful for your partnership and all you do for our city.

Sincerely,
Division of Early Childhood Education