



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CLAYTON EARLY LEARNING ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS**

Denver, CO – Clayton Early Learning is announcing the immediate, temporary closure of all of its operations, including the Denver Educare school in northeast Park Hill. At this time, the closure will be in effect at least through Friday, March 20, 2020.

Although no specific presumed positive cases within the Clayton community have been confirmed, the organization is taking this important step out of an abundance of caution and concern for the Clayton staff, and most importantly the children and families served at the school, and through its extensive network of home-based and community-based early learning programs.

“This was an especially complicated decision for Clayton, given the heightened vulnerability of the children and families we serve,” commented Becky Crowe, president and CEO. “We know this will compound existing challenges of food insecurity and parents’ ability to work and support their families. Health and safety must take priority, but we are also beginning a simultaneous emergency response plan to help sustain the basic needs of our families.”

Decisions about the possible extension of the closure period are pending updated information, and will be made within CDPH and CDC guidelines for schools.

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### **About Clayton Early Learning**

Clayton Early Learning is a hub for Colorado’s innovative work in early childhood development. Committed to the belief that healthy early childhood development offers one of the most powerful levers for ending poverty and inequality, Clayton applies a unique two-generation approach that demonstrates what’s possible in the early years, and the positive impact that it has for children and families over time. Home to Colorado’s only Educare school, a nationally recognized model supporting children from birth to age five, and their families, Clayton also influences systems change through our research and evaluation services, professional development for educators and leaders, and policy and advocacy work at the state and federal levels. With a professional team of teachers, social workers and health professionals, we directly serve 500 families living below the poverty line, and our systems-change work impacts 20,000 children throughout Colorado, annually. Visit [www.claytonearlylearning.org](http://www.claytonearlylearning.org) for more information