

05/15/03

Dear Agencies and Families,

The announcement regarding China's decision to temporarily stop referrals and travel notices for adoption cases has been taken as a precaution against the transmission and risks associated with the SARS virus. In light of the difficulties in traveling to and around China at this time, and the risks associated with SARS infection, this action was difficult but necessary. The Chinese government is engaging in commendable efforts to prevent the continued escalation of infection.

The announcement should not be viewed as a "moratorium" on adoptions--it is a temporary measure enacted in a time of considerable concern for everyone involved. The adoption community is understandably quite concerned about the children who remain in orphanages in China. Obviously, CCAA shares that concern and would not have taken this step unless it was absolutely necessary to do so.

It is our hope that the adoption community will support this very difficult decision.

Sincerely,

Trish Maskew, President
Ethica