

RC/PIO News & Notes 1-12-2024



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

Today we'll have a snapshot of the latest media training session in Savannah. We'll also highlight the monthly state health board meeting held this week along with some district highlights.

Media / CERC training



The DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training Thursday at the Coastal Botanical Gardens in Savannah brought more educational opportunities, enhanced by the knowledgeable and interactive group in the room. We all gained some new insights from each other, and it was great to hear many stories of teachable moments as we went through the material. We'll have more details in a week or two based on feedback survey responses.



CRC TTX

Thanks to Russell Goutierez for this report on an exercise held last week in district 3-1: *The CDC developed the game (This is a TEST) to present players with realistic conditions and circumstances they will encounter while operating a CRC (Community Reception Center). Players' actions and decisions drive the game's progression, with the goal of processing all of the "meeple" through the CRC before reaching any of several critical-mass "Game Over" situations.*

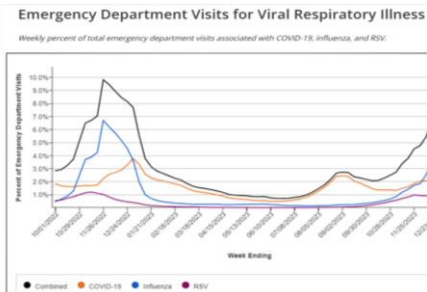


More on TEST is [here](#)

State Board of Health meeting

The January State Board of Health meeting included a report on the recent spike in flu cases, an update on cases of lead tainted applesauce, and the election of board officers among other topics. The board met as severe weather was impacting almost the entire state, and Commissioner Toomey began the meeting by pointing out the role of DPH in responding to disasters. State Epidemiologist Dr. Cherie Drenzek said while cases of RSV are trending down in Georgia, the same cannot be said of influenza and COVID. She said vaccinations, testing, treatment, and the timing of these actions are all key in mitigating the impact of these illnesses.

A Tale of Three Viruses: United States



Applesauce Pouch Brands



Next Week Preview

Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and therefore a state holiday. There are multiple meetings next week for Emergency Preparedness and the National Information Officers Association along with a webinar on long term COVID and talk about the next DPH CERC training in Albany. We should have more details on that training to announce next Friday. It will also be another week in which it is important to stay aware of the weather. After a line of severe storms impacted virtually all of Georgia Tuesday and another storm front moves through today, we are expected to see temperatures drop dramatically. Next week there is a chance of snow in the northern counties, and low temperatures well below freezing multiple nights for the entire state.

About “News & Notes”

“News & Notes” is a weekly communication aimed at risk communicators and public information officers within Georgia’s 18 public health districts. The goal of the communication is to increase preparedness through the exchange of information about significant events, training and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO or For Your Use Only. Please be judicious when forwarding. For questions, comments or to submit information for inclusion, contact Eric Jens at Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov