

RC/PIO News & Notes 3-24-2023



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

The annual DPH Statewide Risk Communicators meeting will still be held virtually on April 19, but we had to change the time from morning to afternoon to accommodate the quarterly state PHEP Staff meeting that morning. For the third week in a row, we have multiple contributions from folks attending recent events of significance to highlight this week. It is always good to receive these and amp up the variety each week. We also have a good-looking snapshot of what St. Patrick's Day looked like a week ago, appropriately from Dublin.



Active Shooter Training

Thanks to Natasha Young for sending us this recap of a recent drill designed to better prepare response actions during an active shooter incident:

This week, White County Health Department and District 2 EP Team participated in an active shooter mass casualty drill at Truett McConnell University. We were there to help guide their nursing students while they triaged the shooting victims. The drill included White County EMA, EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, CERT, and NGHS; as well as TMU Nursing and Criminal Justice students and faculty.



CDC visitors at Cobb/Douglas

Thanks to Russell Goutierez for sending us this preview of a planned visit CDC PHEM fellows will make to the Cobb/Douglas Health District. We had tried to accommodate a visit to the state DPH EOC for this group, but the timing coincides with the anticipated date of the move from 2 Peachtree to Twin Towers. Glad to see they will be connecting with this metro district:

A site visit to Cobb & Douglas Public Health (District 3-1) by CDC Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Fellowship participants is planned for May 11. Established in 2013, the CDC hosts Fellowship cohorts twice yearly. The program is designed for mid-career PHEM professionals in countries who have signed on to International Health Regulations. Fellows spend four months in Atlanta receiving specialized training in PH emergency management functions and operations, participating in site visits, taking part in public health exercises and responses, and receiving guidance from federal, state, and local emergency management specialists. Cohort 16 consists of 21 fellows representing 14 countries: Brunei, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Eswatini, Georgia, India, Kenya, Moldova, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Swaziland, Thailand, Uganda, and Vietnam.



Region C Training

Late last week the Region C Healthcare Coalition received a training on radiological preparedness and emergency response in Cartersville. The group received an overview of potential threats, learned more about the physics related to radiological incidents and heard a discussion on case-based examples. Thanks to Tracy Dabbs for providing the update and pictures.



Happy Retirement



An emotional Farewell/Happy Retirement event was held Wednesday in Canton for long-time DPH Environmental Health icon Ray King. Dozens of folks from state and district offices gathered to share stories, present items to honor his work and wish him well as his retirement begins.



Next Week Preview

Next week there are meetings related to the Biodetection workgroup, Mental Health, and Public Health Misinformation response strategies among other topics.

About “News & Notes”

“News & Notes” is a weekly communication aimed at risk 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