

RC/PIO News & Notes 3-31-2023



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

The first quarter of the calendar year ends today, and the next quarter will be busy to say the least. We'll have a calendar of events included this week. A major focus for the past week has been clean up and recovery from high winds, flooding and tornadic activity that caused significant damage in multiple parts of Georgia. The top left picture below is a train crossing in Milledgeville as captured on GCSU social media. The other two are of the Chattahoochee River sent by Darrell Enfinger in Columbus.



Calendar of Events

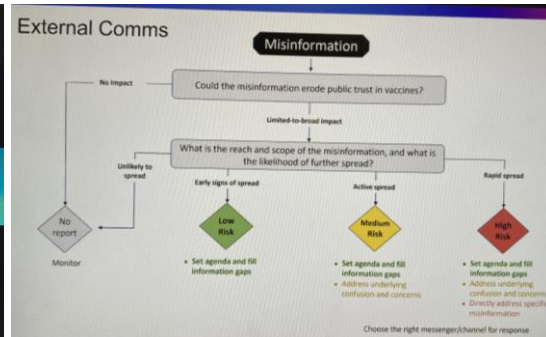
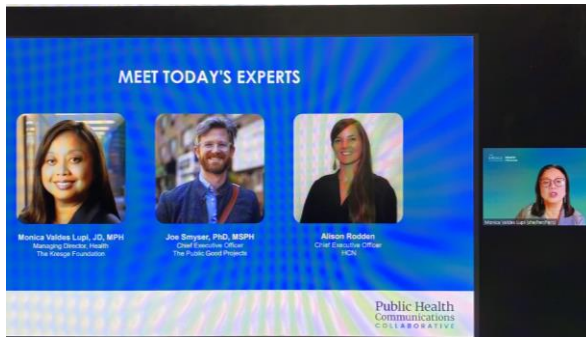
While not all-inclusive, here's a snapshot of April/May events:

- Emergency Managers Association of Georgia conference, April 12-14, Savannah
- Rapid Response Team Statewide meeting, April 17-18, Atlanta
- Statewide Environmental Health Directors meeting, April 17-19, Atlanta
- Statewide DPH Risk Communicators meeting, April 19, virtual
- NACCHO PREP Summit, April 24-27, Atlanta
- Georgia Public Health Association conference, May 3-5, Jekyll Island

(I'll also be presenting at the Managing the Message workshop the last full week of May in Pendleton, OR)

Misinformation Response

The Public Health Communications Collaborative began their monthly Misinformation session with a moment of silence to remember the victims of this week's mass shooting in Nashville and deadly tornadoes in Mississippi. The expert panel then talked about how those spreading the incorrect information don't always believe it themselves, but are attempting to gain popularity, followers, votes, or some other agenda. I also learned a couple new terms during this session: 'infodemiology' and 'Googable.'



Next Week Preview

Next week is National Public Health Week. We'll also have meetings to address combating COVID-19 and Fentanyl overdoses, promoting good mental health and a couple other topics to address throughout the week.

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