

RC/PIO News & Notes 2-28-2025



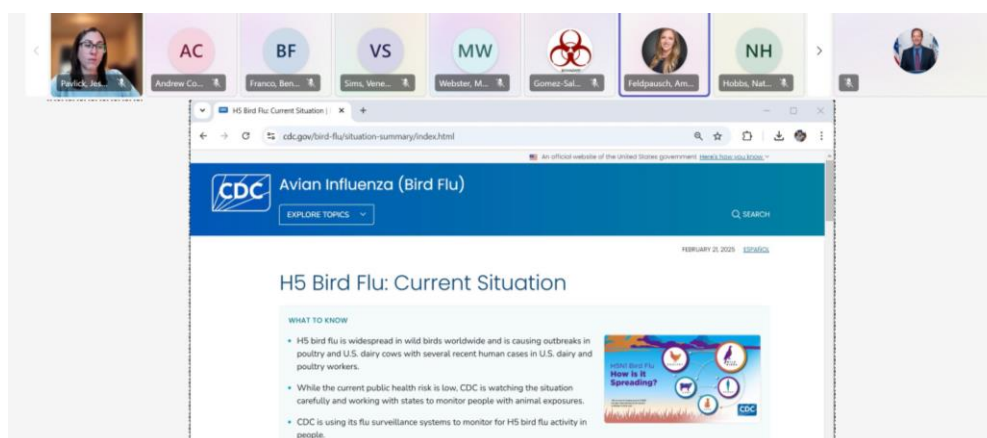
FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

It appears March will not be coming in like a lion this year in Georgia with most forecasts calling for sunny skies and above average temperatures tomorrow.

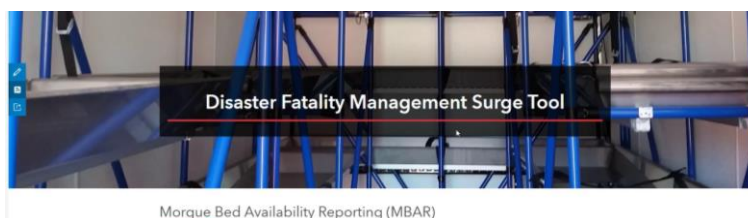
BioWatch

The meeting of the Atlanta BioWatch Advisory Committee Monday included updates from field operations, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program, and the National Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction program. Updates from the State Department of Agriculture included a review of last week's Rapid Response Team meeting, a preview of next week's Water and Food Defense workshops, and a look at the latest High Path Avian Influenza situation impacting Georgia. Amanda Feldpausch went into more details on HPAI.



DPH – EPR Call

Thursday's monthly DPH EPR statewide call included exercise plan updates for Patriot South, Tranquil Passport, and Vigilant Guard exercises. We'll have more details on each of those as we get closer to the date they will be held. Jessica Pavlick told the group Georgia has had three measles cases this year, and while that's never good, it compares favorably to Texas where there have been more than 120 cases and one death. Byron Lobsinger presented the new Morgue Bed Availability on-line tool, adding that hopefully it will only be used in exercises.



Mental Health Communications

The Public Health Communications Collaborative hosted a webinar Tuesday featuring a panel of experts on communicating effectively on Mental Health. Panelist Catherine Ettman said a 2022 study found the national annual cost of poor mental health in the U.S. is 326 billion dollars. This includes treatment and the cost of lost productivity. Panelists also shared the importance of partnerships, polices and resources aimed at improving mental health.



Next Week Preview

Tuesday evening Emory is hosting the Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health Networking night. The FBI Water Defense workshop will be held Wednesday in Fairburn. The FBI Food Defense workshop will be in Atlanta Thursday as is the DPH EPR Section meeting.

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