

RC/PIO News & Notes 6-12-2020



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

While it is still the middle of June, many are already looking ahead to plan for schools to be back in session in a month and a half, athletic practices and competitions, hurricane season which hits the peak shortly after that, and flu season to begin shortly after that. What will all these activities look like in a COVID-19 world? Meanwhile, resource distribution, sample collections, data analysis and contact tracing continues. The state COVID-19 Emotional Support Line remains open to help anyone who may need personal emotional support or resource information. The hours of operation have been scaled back, but it is still operating from 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM.



COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



The New Georgia Project held a virtual Town Hall meeting Thursday night. The topic was serology testing that was conducted in late April and early May in Fulton and DeKalb Counties. 'Filling the Gap' featured prominent panelists including Dr. David Satcher, former Surgeon General, Dr. Lynn Paxton, Fulton County HD, Joe Bresee from CDC, and Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, former PH prof. at Columbia University. They each had some valuable information and insight into the current state of affairs. Satcher said while health disparities are better recognized, as a country we have yet to take them seriously, and it will take discipline and better communication of goals to accomplish. Paxton said it is everyone's hope that we have a COVID-19 vaccine, and equally important that everyone accepts it. Bresee said bad information is okay at times, but in the realm of public health, bad information can be deadly. El-Sayed said there is a danger that real change is thought as something that can happen right away, as opposed to the reality that it is something that takes time and persistence.

For more about the New Georgia Project check out their website:

<https://newgeorgiaproject.org/>



Activity remains high at Specimen Point Of Collection sites throughout the state. One such site in District 4 actually opened about 30 minutes before the scheduled start time because there were already people in line and the operators were ready.



Updated guidance and resources continue to be added to both the CDC and DPH websites:

[CDC](#)

[Georgia](#)

Updates to the state DPH COVID-19 situational report are made once daily at 3:00 PM.

<https://dph.georgia.gov/georgia-department-public-health-covid-19-daily-status-report>

A week ago, Georgia’s COVID-19 case count was 49,847. Here are the counts today:

Georgia (DPH):	54,973 cases, 2,375 deaths
US (CDC):	1,994,283 cases, 112,967 deaths
Global (Johns Hopkins):	7,487,676 cases, 420,847 deaths

Next Week Preview

Multiple conference calls, Teams and Zoom meetings and more are in store for next week. Also look for what might potentially be some non-COVID-19 topics next week. This may include Project ECHO cohort III sessions, Hepatitis A updates and efforts related to Opioid Overdose response. Or it might just be all COVID-19 again. Stay tuned and stay safe.

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