

RC/PIO News & Notes 8-23-2024



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

Another wide variety of topics are in store for highlights this week.

Measles

A state DPH news release Monday announced Georgia's fifth case of measles this year:

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed a measles case in a metro Atlanta resident who was not fully vaccinated. The individual was exposed to measles while traveling out of the country.

Measles is very contagious and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Measles virus can stay in the air or on surfaces for up to two hours after an infected person has left the room.

The MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine can prevent measles and rubella. The vaccine is safe and effective. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children receive their first dose of MMR vaccine between 12-15 months of age and a second dose between 4-6 years old. **More than 95% of the people who receive a single dose of MMR will develop immunity to all three viruses. A second dose boosts immunity, typically enhancing protection to 98%.**

People with symptoms of measles should contact their healthcare provider immediately. **DO NOT** go to the doctor's office, the hospital, or a public health clinic without **first calling to let them know about your symptoms.**

GBI Crime Morgue Tour



Thanks to our GBI hosts and to Byron Lobsinger for arranging Wednesday's tour of the GBI Crime Morgue. Our group of PIO's and others from DPH were able to get a firsthand look at the methods and procedures involved in conducting autopsies. We learned much from our tour guide Stella Gray, who shared her knowledge and captivating stories. While most were inherently tragic, it is good to know all the efforts that go into securing truth and accuracy of how fatal incidents unfolded.

Job Transition

We wish all the best to Charlisa Bell as she makes a career transition at DPH on September 3.

I have accepted a position with State DPH as the Deputy Director of the Office of Public Health Informatics. This decision did not come lightly, but I am excited and grateful for the opportunity. For the past 20 years, Emergency Management/Preparedness has been my family. Building me and allowing me to grow into the professional that I am today. Developing and honing skills that can transfer into any industry.

I have enjoyed the work and sacrifices that we have made as a team, ensuring that the citizens of Georgia are safe and supported during any disaster. It was all well worth it. I personally feel like I have made an impact in Georgia's preparedness program, and I am grateful in having fulfillment in a job "well-done." With that said, this new opportunity has brought me full circle. I began my career in health informatics, and it is still in my heart.

Thank you for your support and patience as I begin to transition into my new role!



Public Health Analyst Meeting

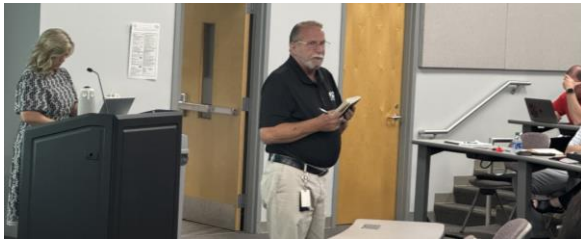
Thanks to Katy Freund for sending the update and picture from last week's 3rd annual District Public Health Analysts conference. Participants heard about the latest efforts conducted by the Opioid Substance Misuse Response Program, including challenges, successes, legislative updates and more impacting all of Georgia. The conference was held at the Emory conference Center.



Workgroups Meeting



Thanks to LaKieva Williams for sending us the pictures from this week's meetings held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (*pics above*). Emergency Support Function – 8 leaders met Tuesday. On Wednesday it was a meeting to cover the resources developed by Emergency Preparedness workgroups as they strive to meet five-year strategic planning objectives. LaKieva also sent us pictures from the Region H Healthcare coalition meeting this week (*pics below*).



Media/CERC Training

Registration is open for the DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training to be held at **Georgia Highlands College in Rome, Thursday, September 19.**

<https://ga.readyop.com/fs/5avp/f83d01eb>

The full day class covers what to do and what not to do when interacting with the media. Class participants will learn details on message delivery, whether that is in front of a camera, giving a presentation or any interaction with the public. The six CERC principles will be addressed throughout the day, with a greater focus on CERC overall during the final segment of the class. Mock interviews and their reviews will provide everyone with some insight into their own delivery style. There are currently 43 registered to attend.

Next Week Preview

The annual National Information Officers Association conference begins Sunday in Florida. We'll have highlights from those sessions next week along with other items of note.

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