



RC/PIO News & Notes |

January 16, 2026

A Weekly Update from **Eric Jens, Risk Communicator** – Georgia Department of Public Health
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News & Notes

Georgia's first measles case of 2026, a UGA class on disaster mental health, and a preview of next week's Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication class will be highlights this week.

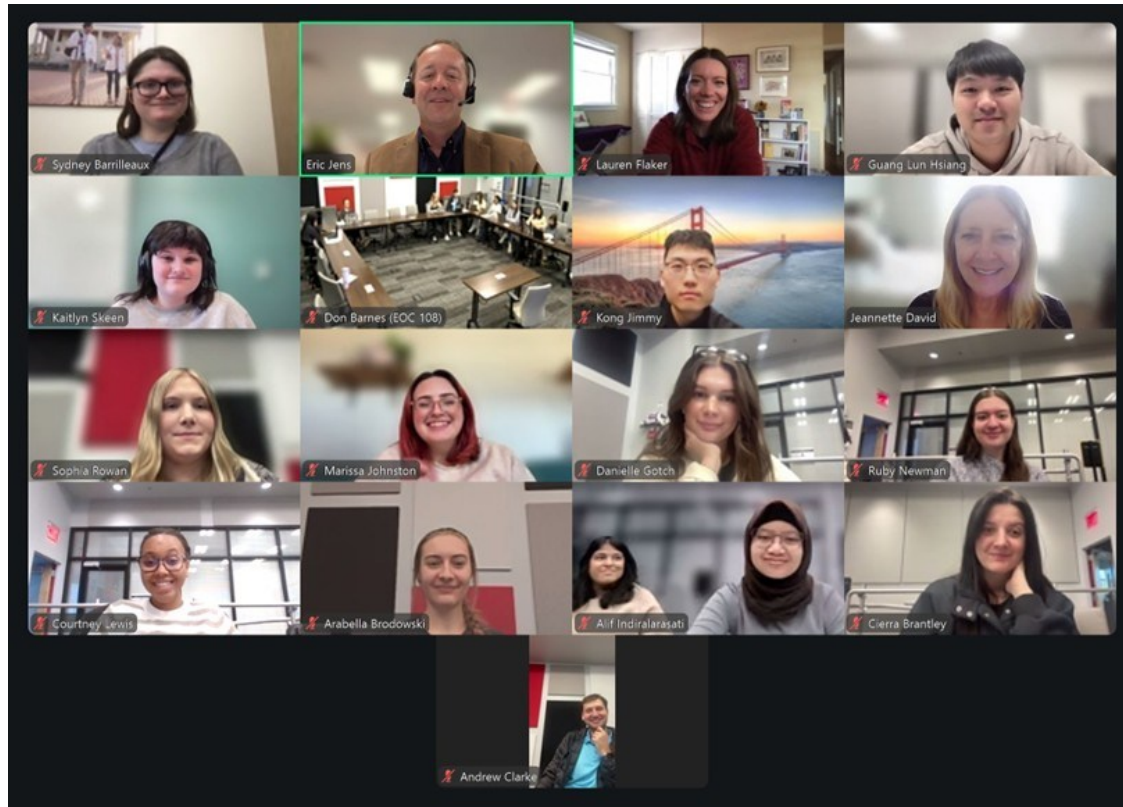
Measles

A state [DPH News Release](#) went out Monday, calling attention to the latest measles case in a young Georgia resident with recent international travel history. This is the first measles case in the state this year. Last year there were 10 confirmed measles cases in Georgia. The MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine can prevent measles and rubella. The vaccine is safe and effective, and parents with questions about the vaccine or the vaccination schedule can consult their physician. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children receive their first dose of MMR vaccine between 12 and 15 months of age and a second dose between 4 and 6 years of age. For babies aged 6-11 months travelling internationally, the CDC recommends a single dose of the MMR vaccine **before** travel, followed by two additional doses after their first birthday.

Disaster Mental Health

Thanks to Jeannette David for inviting me to be interviewed for her University of Georgia Disaster Mental Health class Tuesday. The students asked great questions and were noticeably excited about learning more about subjects related to mental health, disaster response, and communications. We talked about where to get additional training, and the

significance of learning from a variety of experiences, and from the people involved in each of these shared interactions.



Avian Influenza

DPH is working with the State Department of Agriculture on the latest case of Highly Infectious Avian Influenza. A [DOA news release](#) Wednesday announced confirmation of the case in Walker County at a commercial poultry operation. This marks the fourth case in Georgia since the nationwide outbreak began almost four years ago.



Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication

DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication trainings will be held specifically for epidemiologists at the state office on January 21 and January 27. There are 60 signed up for the first class and 54 registered for the second session. Those registered for next week's class should have an agenda, pre-test, and other materials to help prepare for the day's activities. Requests are pending to hold a training in March or April at one of the health districts and we hope to receive word on that request within the next few weeks. We have an initial request from Macon Health District, but others are still possible so please reach out.

Next Week Preview

Next week we have the aforementioned Media / CERC training on Wednesday. There will be a monthly state EP staff meeting on Tuesday morning, followed by multiple FIFA planning sessions in the afternoon. Thursday the Atlanta Urban Area Security Initiative is hosting a MARTA rail active shooter and mass casualty tabletop exercise at the Dekalb Fire/Rescue Headquarters.

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.

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Georgia Department of Public Health | 200 Piedmont Ave, SE | Atlanta, GA 30334 US