



RC/PIO News & Notes |

January 2, 2026

A Weekly Update from **Eric Jens, Risk Communicator** – Georgia Department of Public Health
Contents may be FYUO – For Your Use Only

News & Notes

For highlights to start the new year, we'll have an overview of the many happenings in the last three weeks of 2025 as we sent out atypical editions and took a week off. Thanks to everyone who continues to send in their updates. Also be sure to check out the new DPH West Central Health district podcast: [The West Guest](#).

DAISY Awards

Thanks to Laura Layne for sharing the images and update on the DAISY award ceremony last month in Dekalb County. *The DAISY Award is an international recognition program that honors nurses for providing extraordinary, compassionate, and skillful care. It celebrates the meaningful impact nurses have on patients and families highlighting clinical excellence.* The award winner was Chibuzo Nwogu, amongst distinguished nominees Grace Mbadugha, Pamela Leonard, and Beverly McCray.



Food Borne Illness

In last month's ECHO webinar series, DPH's Melissa Tobin-D'Angelo presented the systems and methods used in Georgia to track food borne illnesses and prevent potentially serious contaminants from causing further harm.

Enteric Disease Surveillance

NARMS—National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System

Collects information about enteric bacteria from humans, retail meats, and food animals and provides data on emerging antimicrobial resistance



<https://www.cdc.gov/narms/about/index.html>

PulseNet

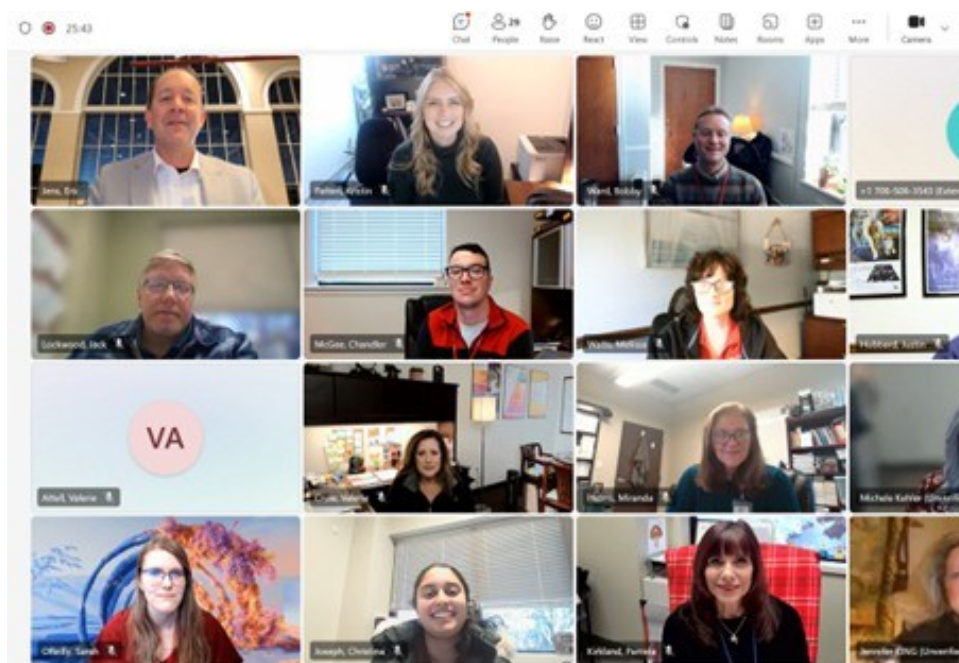
National laboratory network that connects foodborne, waterborne, and One Health-related illness cases to detect outbreaks through DNA fingerprinting techniques



<https://www.cdc.gov/pulsenet/php/anniversary/index.html>



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Quarterly Risk Communicators meeting

The final quarterly DPH Risk Communicators meeting held last month included many great discussions with 17 of the 18 health districts represented at the meeting. Graham Segrest provided a legislative preview of what to watch for as the state legislature goes into session later this month. Aaron Brock and Valerie Attell talked about the Tactical Communications workgroup activities, including the statewide survey of devices and plan development. Frederick Dobard gave an update on web-base accessibility standards that will go into effect this Spring. Thanks to all who attended and to our presenters.

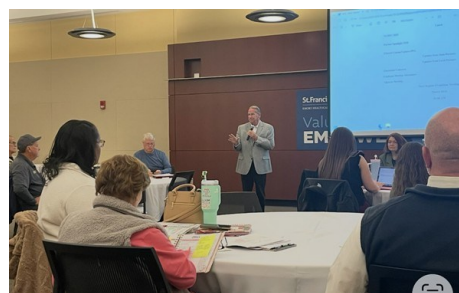
[Recap: DPH Quarterly Risk Communicators meeting Wednesday, December 10 | Meeting | Microsoft Teams](#)



National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference

Thanks to LaKieva Williams for sending use the pictures and update on the annual National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference held last month in Grapevine, Texas.

The conference featured professionals in the emergency management, healthcare coalitions, volunteer organizations and all levels of government (federal, state and local). They advanced their individual and collective skill sets by participating in over 50 sessions, sharing best practices, building partnerships and interacting with the latest technology and industry thought leaders in the Exhibit Hall.





Stop the Bleed

Thanks to TaShawnda Andrews for sending the picture and story highlights involving an incident that occurred recently in the East Central Health District:

Recently, a local tree service business owner experienced a serious accident while cutting a tree. Quick action was required, and a tourniquet was applied to control heavy bleeding. This incident highlights the importance of teaching Stop the Bleed to our district as well as the importance of Emergency Preparedness and having lifesaving tools and training readily available in our communities and state.

Next Week Preview

More regularly scheduled meetings resume next week including sessions for FIFA planning, legislative session preparations, the monthly district PHA meeting, and more.

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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