RC/PIO News & Notes

October 16, 2026

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

News & Notes

This week's topics include hurricane response, measles, and breast cancer awareness.

Measles

A state DPH **News Release** this week highlighted the latest confirmed case of measles in Georgia this year and cited the continuing need for preventative measures.

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed measles in an unvaccinated Macon County resident, bringing Georgia's 2026 total to 22 cases, compared to 10 cases in all of 2025.

The individual is isolating at home, and unvaccinated close contacts are quarantining. Although the individual has no known travel history, they had contact with a confirmed measles case from Pennsylvania, where an ongoing measles outbreak has surpassed 1,100 cases.

DPH is working to identify others who may have been exposed.

Hurricane Isaias

Hurricane Isaias brought moderate widespread damage throughout Georgia just less than a week ago. As expected, power outages and flooding were the primary issues. There is some tropical storm activity in the Pacific. On the Atlantic side, HURREVAC reported this week: A low-pressure trough located several hundred miles west-northwest of the Cabo Verde Islands continues to produce a large area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Further development of this system is not expected as the low moves slowly northward to north-northwestward within strong upper-level winds.

Breast Cancer Awareness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Thanks to Jennifer King for highlighting some related activities in Murray County.

The Murray County Health Department is encourages local women to turn awareness into action by prioritizing their breast health.

On Tuesday, October 27, 2026, from 7:30 AM to 5 PM, the health department will host Breast Cancer Awareness Day, and offer FREE clinical breast exams to women ages 40 through 64, as well as any woman who has noticed a concerning change in her breasts, regardless of age.

The event give women an opportunity to take an important step toward protecting their health. Early detection can make a lifesaving difference and knowing when to seek evaluation is essential.

In addition to free clinical breast exams, eligible women may receive referrals for mammograms and information about breast health and cancer prevention.

Don't put your breast health on hold. This October, make time for yourself — because early detection can save lives!

Next Week Preview

Next week there will be no News and Notes. This will be one of the two weeks we take off each year. My annual leave, which starts today, will take me to Indiana where I'll be officiating my wife's friend's daughter's wedding. From there we will go to Wisconsin for my parents' 80th birthday party. Don't tell them; it is a surprise event planned by my brother.

About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication for risk communicators and public information officers across Georgia's 18 public health districts. This communication aims to enhance preparedness by exchanging information on significant events, training, and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO (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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