

RC/PIO News & Notes 10-17-2025



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News and Notes

Preparations continue for two full-scale exercises to be held in the next two consecutive months. Plans are getting underway for meetings, trainings, and conferences that could happen in 2026. National Bosses Day was Thursday. State DPH Communications took the avant-garde position of celebrating the event on Wednesday.

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Sunday marks the start of National Lead Poisoning Prevention week with numerous awareness initiatives planned. The week's focus is part of everyday efforts for many agencies including [DPH](#).

Understanding Lead

- Lead is a soft metal that is easy to work with and abundant in the environment
- Used throughout recorded history for weapons, medicines, makeup, coins, flavorings, metalwork, and other uses
- Lead poisoning can occur when lead is ingested, touched, or inhaled
- Lead poisoning causes learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and, at high enough levels, can cause seizures, comas, or death
- Damage occurs before symptoms do; early detection is key
- No safe level of lead in children has been identified
- Blood lead levels above 3.5 µg/dL require medical intervention

Exercises

A full-scale exercise organized by national program members for BioWatch will be held November 12 – 14, with significant roles for Communications among other DPH disciplines. While primarily for metro Atlanta districts, this is open to others as well. Thanks to those who have already expressed an interest in taking part, and please reach out if you are considering play or have any questions.

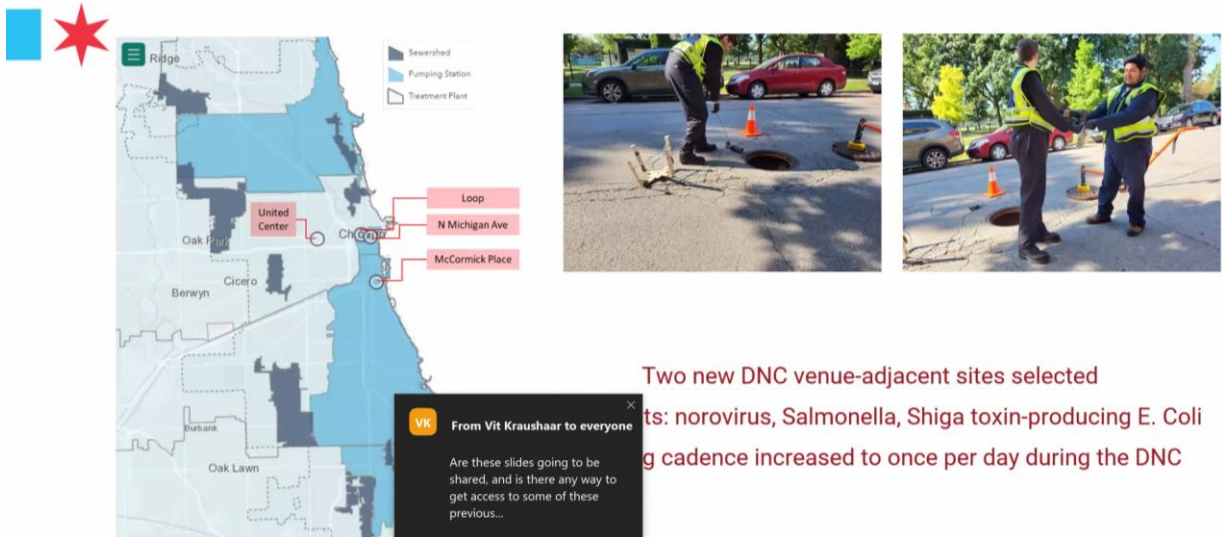
DPH will be taking part in the statewide Vigilant Guard full-scale exercise December 2 – 4. This will involve multiple agencies responding to a nuclear detonation. Again, if anyone has an interest in taking part or has any questions, please reach out. The DPH Final Planning Meeting for this exercise is one week from today.



FIFA Planning

Preparations continue to be made for next year's FIFA World Cup soccer matches, including those to be played in Atlanta. Tuesday the Georgia Emergency Support Function 8 planning team met to align plans and help delineate roles and responsibilities. Thursday afternoon was the monthly Integrating Applied Epidemiology in World Cup Planning webinar. This latest session featured epidemiologists Peter Ruestow and Veronica McSorely from Chicago. They talked about threat detection, analysis, and action during the 2024 Democratic National Convention.

Surveillance Spotlight: Wastewater Surveillance



Next Week Preview

The state DPH EPR monthly meeting is next Tuesday. The DPH EPR monthly statewide call is scheduled for Thursday. There are a couple of weather-related sessions on the calendar for next week as we look to transition from what we hope is the end of the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane season to what we hope is an agreeable winter season.

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