

RC/PIO News & Notes 10-3-2025

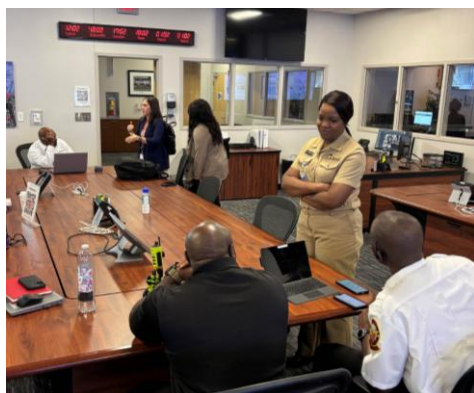


FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

The Atlanta Urban Area Security Initiative is in the middle of conducting multiple Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) sessions. This week topics included Hazmat and Terroristic Threats and Crowd Control. Next week will cover Hurricanes and Floods and Pandemics. This week also included meetings to develop plans, organize exercises, and to receive influenza vaccination.

Communicable Disease Response Plan



CDC, DPH, ATL airport officials, and others met Wednesday at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport to further review the Atlanta Communicable Disease Response plan. The 55-page document describes the roles and responsibilities for agencies and individuals in the collective effort to prevent the introduction, transmission and interstate spread of communicable diseases. DPH would lead or support multiple response actions, including work at the [Port Health Stations](#) (formerly Quarantine Stations). The plan also includes a general overview of Communication strategies and procedures to be determined by the specific disease and level of risk.



BioWatch Full Scale Exercise

A full scale BioWatch exercise will be held in the metro Atlanta area November 12 – 14. The scenario is an intentional Anthrax incident at Mercedes Benz Stadium. The exercise will play out in multiple locations and contain multiple risk communication components. Thanks to the metro DPH district PIO's who have agreed to take part in this exercise. There is still room for more participants. Please reach out if you or someone you know is interested in this participating.



Parent Support Network

An extensive overview of mental health services, studies and more was provided by Jennifer Dunn, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Deputy Assistant Commissioner on Tuesday's Georgia Parent Support Network meeting. Dunn talked about how disasters can magnify mental health concerns throughout the agriculture community, and shared recent surveys among 4-H members showing strong concern for developing healthy habits. She also provided advice on coping mechanisms, including Navy Seal box-breathing and access to immediate assistance by calling 9-8-8.

What would 4-H youth like to learn more about?



Figure 3: The results of the survey given to 61 4-H'ers shows that there is an interest in learning more about various stress management techniques. The three techniques with the most interest are creating routines/time management, healthy habits, and handling feelings.

Flu Shots

The annual state flu vaccination clinic was held Tuesday at the Washington Street gym. A good time was had by all, whether they be patients or those calling the shots.



Next Week Preview

A variety of events are on the calendar for next week including more UASI THIRA sessions, a National Weather Service storm spotter class, the EPR on Ice tabletop exercise After Action Report meeting, the monthly District PHA meeting, and webinars ranging from weight loss drugs to long COVID.

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