

RC/PIO News & Notes 10-31-2025



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

It will be some time before this week's full devastating impact from Hurricane Melissa is determined in Jamaica and other island nations. BioWatch, Cyber-Security and more are in store for highlights this week. Thanks to Leah Hoffacker for sending us the sights from the Directors of Public Health Preparedness meeting this week in Kansas City. Leah is now a Member at Large of the national organization. She, along with KT McKnight attended and plan on implementing processing tools they learned at the ESF-8 leadership meeting next week.



BioWatch



The quarterly Atlanta BioWatch Advisory Committee meeting Monday at the Dekalb Board of Health featured a game of Points Of Distribution operations. 'This is a Test' POD edition played out, with BAC members successfully moving their Meeples from Griage, through the POD and out safely on the other side. There were also programmatic updates and overviews of recent statuses for Measles, Avian Influenza, and New World Screwworm.



Cybersecurity



The state DPH IT Security Team hosted a gathering Wednesday to wrap up Cybersecurity Awareness Month. They offered five steps to improve one's cyber safety:

- Lock your computer (or log out) before stepping away.
- Complete your Security Awareness Training.
- Do not access your DPH accounts on personal devices.
- Do not retrieve or provide access to information beyond a legitimate business purpose.
- Encrypt your emails when sending PII/PHI.

Next Week Preview



Have a fun and safe Halloween. Daylight saving time ends this weekend, so remember to change the non-automatic changing clocks if you have any, and the smoke detector batteries.

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