



RC/PIO News & Notes |

February 27, 2026

A Weekly Update from **Eric Jens, Risk Communicator** – Georgia Department of Public Health
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News & Notes

CERC training, Measles, and more will be among the highlights for this week.

Measles

The second Measles case in Georgia this year was announced with a state DPH [news release](#) Sunday. This one occurred in the Coastal Health District and, like the first case, was an unvaccinated resident. There were ten cases of Measles in Georgia last year. More than 95% of people who receive a single dose of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine will develop immunity to all three viruses. A second dose boosts immunity, typically enhancing protection to 98%. Individuals who are vaccinated with the MMR vaccine also help protect others who are too young or medically unable to be vaccinated.

DPH Media / CERC training

Registration is now open for the April 10 DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training to be held at the North Central Health District office in Macon: [register](#)

The annual statewide DPH Risk Communicators meeting will be held at the same location on the previous day. This meeting is for state and district communicators within DPH, presenters and invited guests and there is no need to register for this event. The following day's CERC training is open to all until the max attendance is reached. At that time those who register will be placed on a waiting list. Thanks to everyone who has helped put these events together.

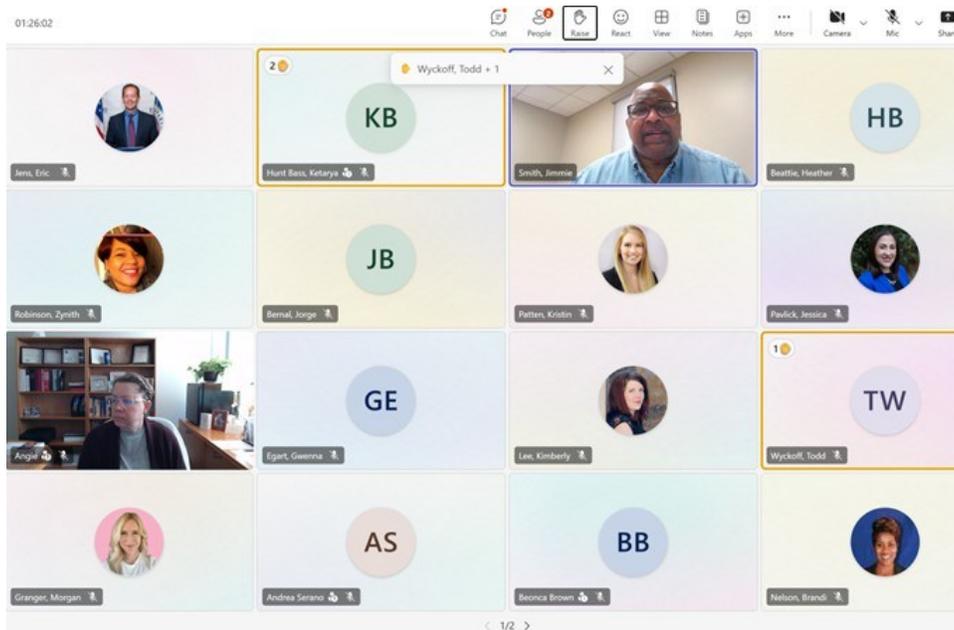
Preceptor Award

Congratulations to Dr. Tracy Dabbs, who this week was recognized by Mercer University College of Pharmacy with the 2026 Preceptor Award. The award is based on student nominations, recognizing qualities such as fostering professional ethics, providing meaningful feedback, serving as a role model and mentor, and promoting a positive, supportive learning environment.



GPHA

The Georgia Public Health Association executive board met Monday and reviewed plans for a virtual meeting to be held April 29 in lieu of the typical in-person annual meeting. GPHA section leads provided updates on their most recent activities. There were also updates on the latest pending legislation, financial reports, and reports from the GPHA president and vice-president.



Project ECHO

The latest Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) featured a global look at new and emerging pathogens specifically focused on their potential impact during large gatherings. Dr. Amanda Feldpausch said during the World Cup games in Atlanta this year, epidemiologists will be looking at data worldwide to predict and plan for the most significant and most likely threats. She said there will be many tools utilized to help identify and respond to threats as quickly as possible, minimizing their impact to the greatest extent possible.



How will we know? (a few examples)

- Public Health Surveillance Tools (examples)
 - Wastewater surveillance
 - Syndromic surveillance
 - Environmental (Biowatch)
- Planning and preparedness
 - Working groups
 - District/State, State/State, State/Federal, and Academic partnerships
- **Public Health and Clinical partnership and preparedness**
 - **Identify, Isolate, Inform**

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Next Week Preview

Tuesday of next week is all about planning for chemical responses. A Chemical Seminar hosted by Ricky Schutter at the state DPH EOC will be held from 9:00 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon. During the noon lunch hour, ECHO for Region 4 Readiness will host a webinar entitled 'Poison Control Center Role in Chem/Rad Incident Response.' Wednesday is the Region N Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Summit in Marietta. Thursday night Emory is hosting a networking night for Media, Arts, and Communication.

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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