



RC/PIO News & Notes |

April 10, 2026

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

News & Notes

Highlights this week include Thursday's annual DPH risk communicators meeting, BioWatch, and more.

Annual R/C meeting

The annual statewide DPH Risk Communicators in Macon Thursday covered an extensive list of topics and variety of speakers. Thanks to all those who presented, attended, and in many other ways helped make this event happen. We addressed issues ranging from digital platform accessibility requirements to spend-down campaign expectations, from data collection resources within Environmental Health to Epidemiology roles in Measles response and FIFA planning. There were 14 in attendance in person, 18 attending via Teams, and all 18 health districts had at least one person present during the day.



BioWatch

Monday's quarterly meeting of the Atlanta BioWatch Advisory Committee included discussion of the full-scale exercise slated for May 6-8. Jurisdictional Coordinator Simran Kaur walked the group through the anticipated timeline related to a BioWatch Actionable Result (BAR). Additional updates were provided by DPH EPR, BioWatch Field Operations, State Department of Agriculture, and Epidemiology. Communication products are in the works for awareness of threats related to New World Screw Worm. Measles remains a high concern, and while no new cases have been reported in Georgia recently, wastewater in the metro Atlanta area did test positive for Measles last week.

Requesting control is disabled by the sharer company's administrator

PR
Ray, Patrice

Hoffacker, ...

Kaur, Ramsi

MW
Webster, ...

ME
Michael, ...

Zia, Safa

JH
Houser, John

BioWatch Actionable Result Assessment – Process

```

graph LR
    A[Screen Reactive] --> B[Verified PCR Positive Result]
    B --> C[Laboratory Response Summary (LRS)]
    C --> D[Technical Laboratory Consultation Call (TLCC)]
    D --> E[BAR Data Form/IRL Declaration]
    E --> F[ReadyOp Notification]
    F --> G[BioWatch Executive Leadership Call (BLC)]
    G --> H[BioWatch Advisory Committee Call]
    H --> I[BioWatch National Conference Call (BNCC)]
  
```

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

EMAG Conference

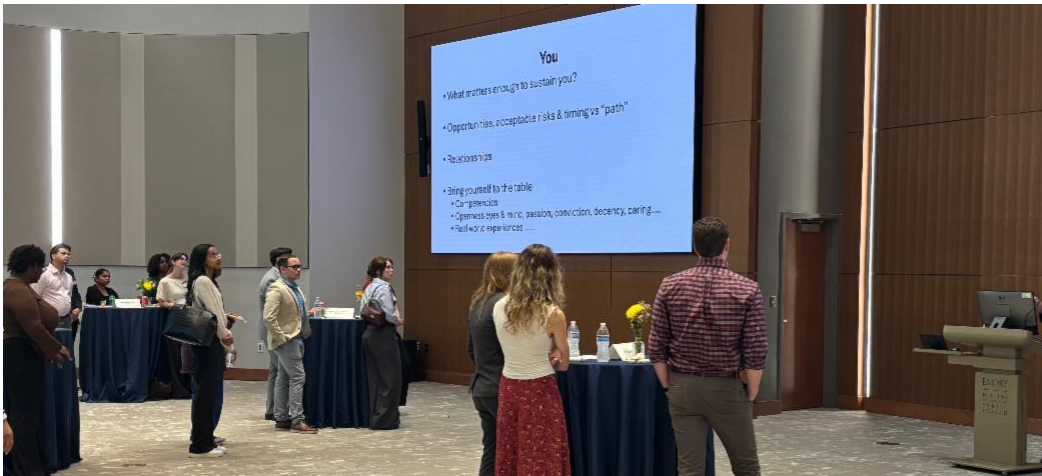
Thanks to KT McKnight and Mallory Garrett for the image and update from this year's Emergency Management Association of Georgia conference:

Georgia's Healthcare Coalitions sponsored over 100 attendees last week at the 2026 Emergency Management Summit and Training Sessions on Jekyll Island. They joined nearly 700 emergency management professionals from across the state and beyond, spending the week engaging with peers, sharing ideas, and gaining valuable insights from sessions and discussions. The sponsored attendees were tasked with sharing the knowledge they gained at the Summit with their respective coalitions to continue the conversations locally.



Emory Networking night

Physician Keiji Fukuda, former assistant director of WHO, was the guest speaker at an Emory Networking night late last week. Dr. Fukuda talked about some concerning recent trends in international cooperative efforts aimed at stopping the spread of serious diseases globally. Students, professors and health professionals exchanged ideas and made connections for future endeavors at the SORT x HERT event.



Next Week Preview

Next week we'll have highlights from the DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training that is just now getting underway in Macon. There is also another Emory networking night and multiple FIFA planning meetings on the calendar for next week.

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.

We protect lives.

**Georgia Department of Public
Health** | dph.ga.gov



Reader Advisory Notice: Email to and from a Georgia state agency is generally public record, except for content that is confidential under specific laws. Security by encryption is applied to all confidential information sent by email from the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). This message is only intended for specific recipient(s) and may contain privileged, private or sensitive information. If you received this message in error, please delete it and contact me.