



RC/PIO News & Notes |

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

CERC training review, the NACCHO PREP summit, and more are among the highlights this week.

CERC Training

The latest DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training was held one week ago today in Macon. There were 39 participants with a wide range of expertise, including eight with a primary role in Communications. Going beyond the informational aspects of the class, there were great questions, including some with answers that are still to be determined. Thanks to everyone who helped organize the event and to those who added so much to the discussion topics. Also thanks to Chief



Communications Officer Chris Floore from Macon-Bibb County Government for his talk on how to attract positive media attention. Everyone has a role in Communications, and this class demonstrated just how important that role is every day.



PREP Summit

The annual National Association of County and City Health Officials Preparedness Summit was held this week in Baltimore MD. The 2026 theme was "Protecting Our Communities: State and Local Preparedness in action." Among the Georgia contingency representing DPH were Tracy Dabbs and Austin Speers. Thanks to both of them for sending pictures and updates. The Preparedness Summit is the place to



reenergize while gaining the knowledge, resources, and relationships necessary to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.



Emory Networking Night

Thursday night was the Emory Networking night for Law, Government and Social Impact. Students, faculty, alumni, and field professionals talked about the career steps they've taken and the steps they hope to take next. A couple of keynote speakers shared moments that were major turning points in their career paths.





Disaster Drill

Thanks to Mark Palen for sending the update and images of Wednesday's Piedmont University Disaster Drill. Christina Joseph represented District 2 at the news conference featuring PIO report outs.



Next Week Preview

Highlights for next week include the MRC Leaders and Partners training meeting in LaGrange. The meeting is Tuesday through Friday, and I'll be doing a Communications talk on Thursday. Other sessions next week include the monthly state EPR meeting on Tuesday, ReadyOp training on Wednesday and a UGA IDM Public Health engagement fireside chat on Friday.

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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