



# RC/PIO News & Notes |

May 22, 2026

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

The monthly state DPH EPR meeting, a retirement event, and more are among this week's features. Later this morning there will be a Web EOC training to prepare for FIFA World Cup '26 which kicks off next month. We hope to have updates next week on an exercise being held today in Fairburn. The Food Defense tabletop exercise is entitled: 'Frozen Findings at FIFA.'

## Measles

Three more cases of measles in Georgia were confirmed this week, bringing the 2026 total to five cases. There were 10 cases in Georgia in 2025. A state DPH [news release](#) went out Tuesday. The most recent cases were an unvaccinated metro Atlanta family that had traveled internationally.

## May EPR meeting

The May state DPH EPR meeting Tuesday included a demonstrative walk-through of the SERVGA Volunteer program on-line platform. LaKieva Williams, Blanca Lewis, and Paulette Poole showed how the system captures credentials, opportunities, and overall navigation. Mallory Garrett then shared an overview and update on the Georgia Hospital Association programs. This included the GHC911 digital platform for



information pertaining to Regional Coordinating Hospitals. Stephanie Collazo presented the finer points of the FAMIS360 inventory and asset management system.



## Valerie Attell Retirement

A bitter-sweet farewell event was held Tuesday following the monthly state DPH EPR meeting to wish all the best to Valerie Attell as she retires from DPH at the end of the month. Personal recollections from over the years were shared by

dozens of folks in the room and more on-line. There is no way to verbally capture everything Valerie has done for so many both professionally and personally.





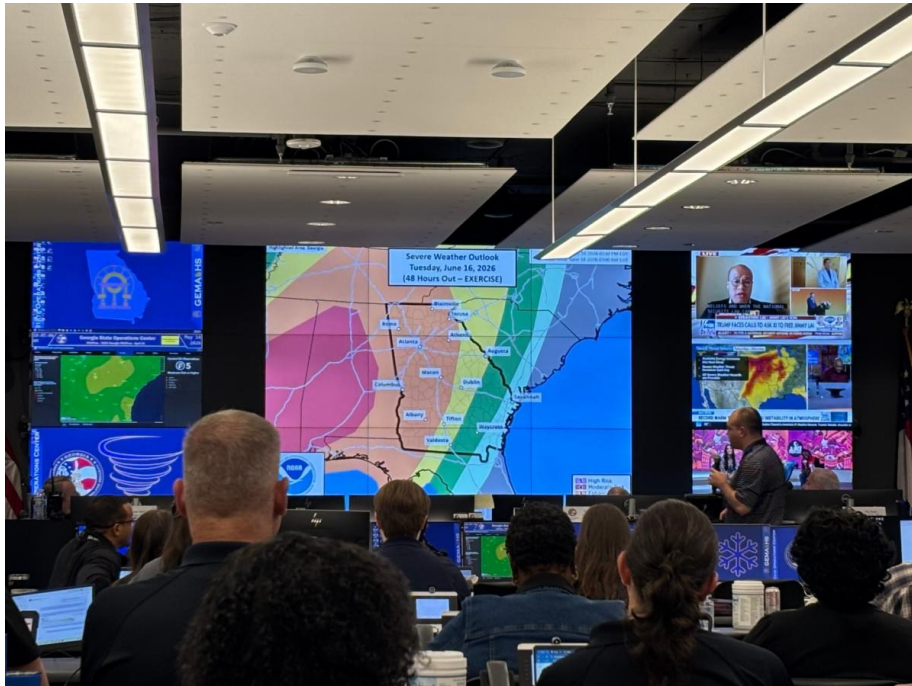
## Risks & Threats Exercise

Thanks to Aaron Biggs for sending the update and images of a Georgia Health Threats and Risk Exercise that he and Felix Lawson took part in last week at the GEMA State Operation Center.

The exercise involved the

potential role of Public Health during FIFA World Cup operations:

*The exercise focused on coordination and response considerations associated with large-scale event operations, severe weather impacts, mass gathering safety, and multi-agency resource coordination. During the exercise, I provided ESF-8 briefings related to public health and medical coordination, while Felix captured meeting notes and operational discussion points throughout the event.*



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## Next Week Preview

Next Monday is the Memorial Day holiday. Later in the week there will be sessions focused on FIFA, Hantavirus, cyber security, and tactical communications.

**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](mailto:Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov).

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