



RC/PIO News & Notes

June 26, 2026

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

News & Notes

FIFA World Cup events in Atlanta and the surrounding areas continue. We'll have more on that plus a look at some events that are in the works for the rest of this summer and into early autumn. Among the interesting notes for the week, GovTech's *AI Weekly* newsletter featured an article regarding how Artificial Intelligence is being taught in college journalism classes: [AI University](#).



FIFA

FIFA World Cup matches continue to attract crowds and attention to the Atlanta area. On Wednesday that included a match in which Morocco defeated Haiti 4-2, with an attendance of 61,329 one hour into the game. Tens of thousands more attended fan fests, watch parties, and other FIFA-related events in the surrounding area. The

Atlanta Public Safety Joint Operations Center (JOC) and Joint Information Center (JIC) were at Level 1 activation throughout the day. The next match at Atlanta Stadium is scheduled for Saturday.



Events Calendar

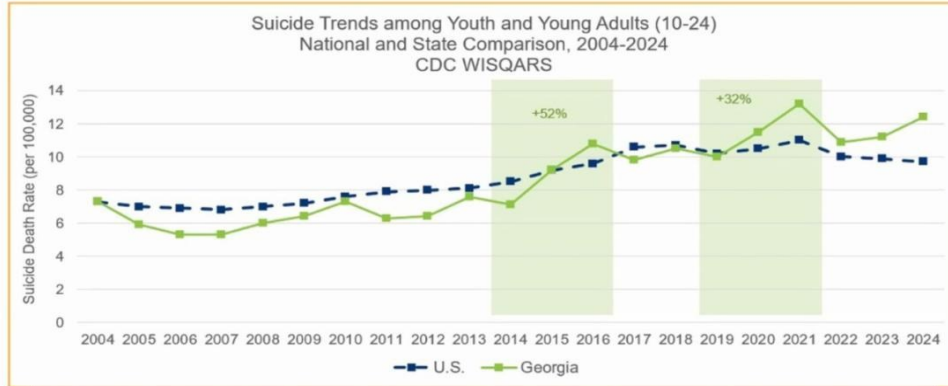
We still have more than two weeks of responding to FIFA events in the Metro Atlanta area, but other plans are in the works for what follows. Here's a list of such tentative activities:

- July 9 – Disaster Mental Health training
- July 24 – International guests hosted by the CDC visiting the DPH EOC
- August 11 – Metro Atlanta Communicators coffee meeting
- September 22 – DPH Media/CERC training, LaGrange
- September 30 – DPH Media/CERC training, Grady Hospital

Suicide Prevention

Tuesday's meeting of the Georgia Parent Education and Support Group featured a presentation on suicide data by Rachael Holloman from the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. She said the suicide rates among youth and young adults in Georgia have been above the national average since 2020, with the youngest last year being nine years old. She said a common myth is that talking to youth about suicide increases the chance of it happening, when in reality, the opposite is true.

National-State Comparison



- The suicide rate among youth and young adults in Georgia has been higher than the national rate since 2020.
- Highlighted portions show areas of increase (52% increase from 2014 to 2016; 32% increase from 2019 to 2021)
- Considerable increase (~13%) between 2022 and 2024 in Georgia
- 2014 to 2024:
 - > 75% rate increase in Georgia
 - > 14% increase nationwide

Rift Valley Fever

Project ECHO presented a webinar on Thursday detailing the latest condition of Vector-Borne Rift Valley Fever. DPH's Julie Gabel spoke about the significance to Georgia. Dr. Gabel said the risk in this state is low, but this would be considered a high-consequence infectious disease, so it is important to have the proper systems, people, and practices in place.

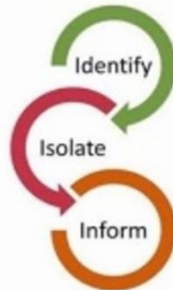
Core Framework for HCID Response: Identify, Isolate and Inform

Early identification: facilitates a timely and coordinated response

Containment: reduces the risk of healthcare-associated and community exposures

Parallel notification: ensures key internal and external partners are notified simultaneously

Coordination: supports a multidisciplinary approach to managing potential health threats



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Next Week Preview

There is a Georgia Public Health Association executive board meeting on Monday morning. The National Public Health Information Coalition call is Wednesday afternoon. And there are more FIFA-related matches, events and activations scheduled throughout the week. The nation's 250th Independence Day is Saturday, July 4, and the state holiday is Friday, July 3, so News and Notes will go out on Thursday, July 2.

About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication for risk communicators and public information officers across Georgia's 18 public health districts. The goal of this communication is to enhance preparedness by exchanging information on significant events, training, and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO (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.