



RC/PIO News & Notes

August 7, 2026

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

News & Notes

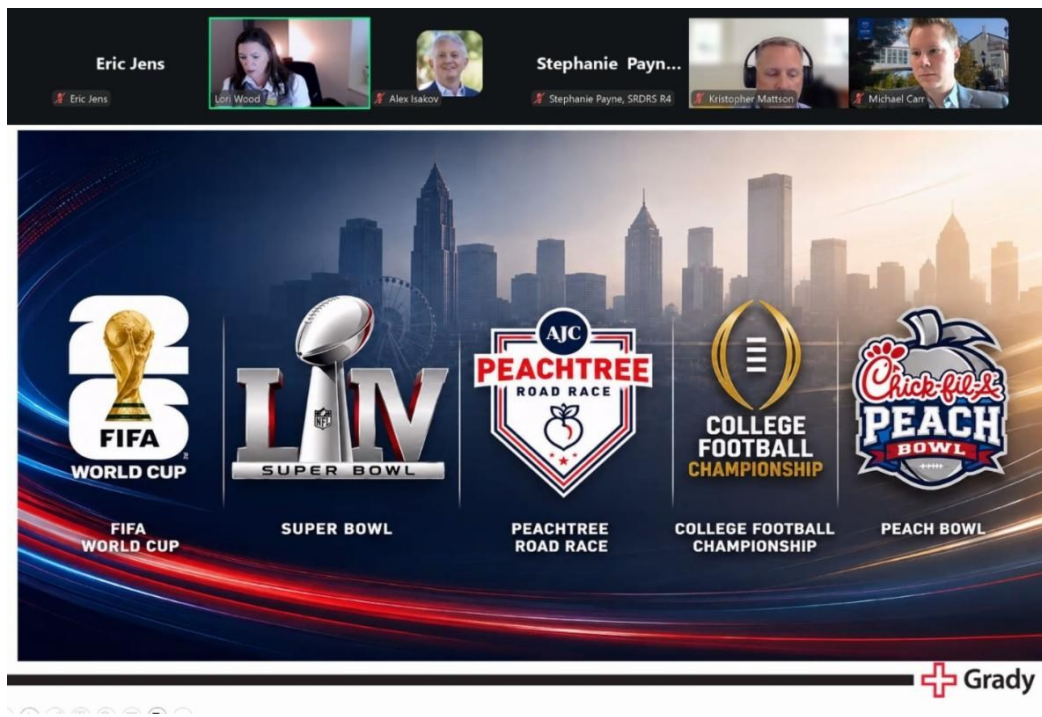
More variety is in store this week as we highlight community resilience, measles, and other topics.

Community Resilience

Perfect alignment is not realistic, but coordinated effort is achievable. That's one of the key messages shared by Grady Hospital's Lori Wood during Tuesday's ECHO series webinar on community resilience.

Presenters emphasized the importance of building both professional and personal relationships before and during emergency response efforts. Whether responding to civil unrest, large public gatherings, or any event requiring a multi-agency response, those connections can strengthen coordination and improve outcomes.

Moderator Alex Isakov of Emory University noted that every organization and individual brings unique strengths and weaknesses to the table. Success, he said, depends on recognizing those strengths and finding ways to leverage them to accomplish the mission.



Measles

Among the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) News Highlights posted this week is a timely report on the nation's measles cases.



Measles Cases Climb to Highest Level in Decades, Renewing Vaccination Focus

Measles cases in the United States have reached their highest level in 35 years, prompting renewed public messaging supporting childhood vaccination.

The nation has confirmed 2,371 measles cases so far this year, surpassing 2025's record of 2,289, while the past two years have produced more cases than the rest of the 21st century combined. The surge includes 37 outbreaks and has raised concerns that the U.S. could lose its measles elimination status, with unvaccinated communities remaining disproportionately affected.

The trend highlights the importance of consistent vaccine communication as schools reopen and outbreaks continue to expand.

HID Exercise Planning

A Midterm Planning Meeting was held Thursday to prepare for "The Silent Spread: Georgia's Dual Threat Capstone," a Highly Infectious Disease tabletop exercise scheduled for Dec. 8–9.

The first day of the exercise will be conducted in a hybrid format, while the second day will be held in person at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.

The deadline to submit the list of potential participants is one week from today. DPH districts may have already identified their risk communicator participants, but they are also encouraged to coordinate with the state DPH risk communicator to help plan and organize the Communications component of the exercise.

Next Week Preview

The quarterly Region C Healthcare Coalition meeting will be held on Tuesday in Cartersville. Topics for other meetings next week include pandemic flu planning, opioid misuse, mental health, and others.

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.

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