



RC/PIO News & Notes

August 14, 2026

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

News & Notes

A quarterly meeting of the Region C Healthcare Coalition, an interesting look at Cyclospora from a communications perspective, and more are among the highlights featured this week.



Region C meeting

The Region C Healthcare Coalition met on Tuesday at the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville. Presentations included one from Shawn Estes, PruittHealth – Franklin administrator, covering the power outage experienced July 4. He said that after 13 hours without power, evacuation plans were on the verge of being put into action. He said the overnight timing of the incident and cooling aid from Region C partners kept that from

happening. Other reports were delivered by DPH districts 1-1 and 4 epidemiologist teams, the UGA Institute of Disaster Management, DPH state leaders, and coalition facilitators.



Cyclospora

Thanks to Richard Quartarone for sharing this NPR [audio segment](#) that touches on Cyclospora and communications.

DPH Media / CERC training

The next DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training is September 22 at the LaGrange Health District Office. More details and a registration link should be posted in News and Notes next week if all goes as planned. The full-day class typically consists of practical interactions and how best to deliver the intended message. It covers which delivery methods to use and how to use them. It also includes guest presenters with specific expertise, mock video interviews and critique of the delivery. The basic CERC class is included for participants to obtain Georgia CERC certification upon completion. Most importantly, it brings people from multiple disciplines together to learn the best ways they can collaborate to accomplish mutual goals.



Next Week Preview

We have 18 international public health specialists from 14 countries, along with their CDC hosts, planning to visit the state DPH EOC on Monday afternoon. Anyone who is available between 1:00 and 4:00 is invited to join the conversation. Tuesday morning is the next monthly state DPH EPR staff meeting. There is an open invitation to anyone who would like to join the Metro Atlanta Communicators coffee meeting Thursday morning at 9:30 at the Twin Towers cafeteria.

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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