

RC/PIO News & Notes 8-22-2025

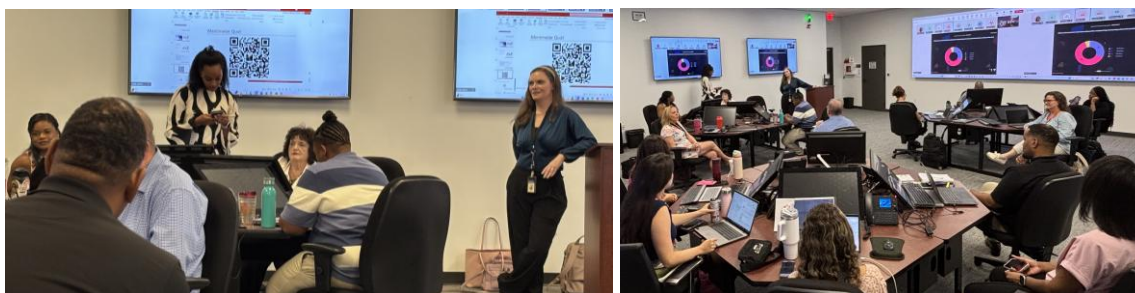


FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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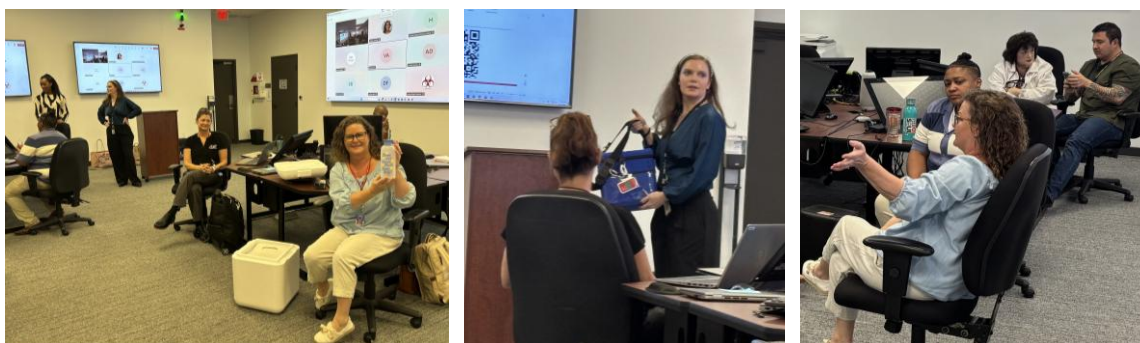
News and Notes

This week we'll have updates on tropical storm activity, measles, and more.

Monthly State EPR meeting



The August state DPH EPR meeting featured an overview of the cold chain transportation and storage procedure for medications and other temperature-sensitive assets. Cameron Hicks along with Tracy Dabbs provided the presentation and post quiz complete with small prizes for correct answers at the Tuesday meeting. The group then heard from Jeremy Yates from Human Resources about the dress and behavior rules designed to maximize work efficiency, maintain professionalism, and keep employees out of trouble.



Measles

The *Common Health 2-4-2 Digest* provided some favorable news about recent national trends in measles cases. There has been an unusually high number of cases in 2025, include six cases in Georgia:

Measles reports: In the U.S., there have been 1,367 confirmed measles cases. This week, Texas health officials [declared](#) the end of one of the nation's largest recent outbreaks after 42 days without a new case in West Texas. For ongoing updates, visit our [Resources page](#). Read the latest deep-dive [here](#).

Mass Care Exercise

Thanks to Sadie Stockton for sending us the information and picture of a functional exercise held in the East Central Health District earlier this month:

Augusta – Richmond County EMA, American Red Cross, Preston Harpe Medical Reserve Corp of East Central Georgia, and the East Central Public Health District conducted a Mass Care Functional Exercise. In preparation for the peak hurricane season a need was identified to energize and coordinate with our Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care Partners.

The training included:

Environmental Health Specialists were trained in conducting shelter inspections by the Richmond County Environmental Health Manager who inspected shelters during Hurricane Helene. District and County Health Department nurses received specific Disaster Health Services Training by a Red Cross nurse and a Public Health nurse who had supported a shelter during Helene. District Epidemiology explained how Public Health conducts shelter surveillance and responder safety tracking. In response to a real-life drug overdose event at the shelter during Helene, we added NARCAN to the shelter kits. The District Public Health Analyst conducted a Narcan Administration training at this exercise.



Erin

Hurricane Erin moved through the center of the Bermuda Triangle this week, mostly as a Category 3 or 4 storm after briefly hitting a Category 5. Coastal areas faced varying degrees of impact, including high waves, rip currents, and evacuations for islands off the coast of the Carolinas. Georgia, especially South and Central areas, could see excessive rain in the next couple days. The next named Atlantic tropical storm this year will be named Fernand.

Next Week Preview

There are a few meetings and webinars throughout the week, and a full slate of activities Monday including a Georgia Public Health Association executive board meeting, a Public Health Communication Collaborative anniversary live LinkedIn event, and a BYOL Web EOC training.

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