



## RC/PIO News & Notes

September 11, 2026

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

### News & Notes

We have more updates this week on measles cases in Georgia, Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) trainings later this month, and a variety of other topics. Today marks 25 years since the 9/11 terrorist attack that changed so many perceptions and procedures throughout the country. Never Forget.



### Measles

DPH continues to respond to measles cases in Georgia. A state DPH [News Release](#) (9/4/26), went out each of the last two Fridays, updating the latest measles situation in Georgia, and another release reflecting the latest updates may be sent out today. In addition to the most recent number of confirmed cases for the year, such news releases highlight the best preventative actions residents can take to avoid contracting the virus.

## Georgia Environmental Health Association

Thanks to Galen Baxter for providing the notes and pictures from this year's Georgia Environmental Health Association (GEHA) conference. Held the last week of August at Lanier Islands, the conference featured educational sessions, networking opportunities, and annual awards. Among those awards was the GEHA's Member of the Year Award, presented to Tim Callahan.



**988**  
**LIFELINE** **GEORGIA**

### 9-8-8 Day

Tuesday, (9/8), we recognized four years of operation for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, a judgement-free route to help for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress. Support is available 24/7 via calls, texts, or chats. According to data from the Georgia Department of Behavioral

Health and Developmental Disabilities, there were more than 350,000 of these interactions last year. Senior Program Director Dawn Peel, at a meeting earlier this year, said this is the highest volume to date, and reflects an increase of both awareness and trust in the service.

### CERC Training

The next DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication training is Tuesday, September 22 at the LaGrange Health District Office. Registration is now open: [CERC](#). As of Thursday, we have



filled 20 of the 50 available seats. A shortened version of this training will be held on September 30 at Grady Hospital for a smaller group of invitees.

## Next Week Preview

Next Tuesday is the monthly state DPH EPR staff meeting. Registration for the aforementioned CERC training in LaGrange will remain open for most of next week, after which we'd ask folks to request a seat directly. One week from today is the next state Epidemiology Lunch and Learn session with the spotlight on Anthrax.

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

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