

RC/PIO News & Notes 5-19-2023



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
Contents may be FYUO – FOR YOUR USE ONLY

News and Notes

The next DPH risk communicators quarterly meeting is scheduled for the morning of Thursday, June 15 at 10:30. Invites went out this week. The agenda is still being finalized, but we have a handful of topics and presenters planned to be included. There were a couple of in person meetings held this week, which we will highlight, along with the Emergency Preparedness Summit held last Friday at the Fulton County airport.

Mass Fatality Planning



For the first time since pre-COVID-19, the Mass Fatality Statewide Support and Coordination group met Wednesday at the GBI Headquarters in Decatur. Byron Lobsinger told the group that in 2020 fatalities due to COVID-19 statewide reached 168 per day and 1,178 per week. Months later there would be even higher numbers. Group members talked about their roles in responding to mass fatality incidents. Eight agencies were represented including DPH, GBI, GEMA, GSP, Red Cross, MRC and the state Crime Victim Compensation program.

UASI RCTC meeting

Members of the Atlanta Urban Area Security Initiative's Regional Communications and Technology Committee met Tuesday at the Atlanta Police Department Headquarters. Members discussed projects for the year ahead and involvement in a full exercise in October. They also addressed what went right and what could have been better regarding communications during a mass shooting incident earlier this month that involved multiple jurisdictions.



Immunization Champions



Congratulations to the North Georgia Health District nurses and their team that was recognized for their immunization prowess by receiving the 2023 Walt Orenstein Immunization Champions Award. Here's an excerpt from the news release that went out Wednesday:

In 2022, staff administered over 15,000 COVID-19 shots and nearly 9,000 flu shots at various sites, including 70 schools to provide flu shots and on-site vaccination clinics at over 150 businesses. Always emphasizing the need for vaccinations and where to find them, the district utilizes every public platform, from blast emails to media releases, social media messages, and website posts to printed handouts, posters, and banners in English and Spanish to keep residents informed of immunization updates and events.

Fulton County EP Summit

An Emergency Preparedness Summit hosted by the Fulton County Board of Health was held one week ago today. Attendees heard from presenters on a variety of topics ranging from technology updates, to sheltering plans, to Medical Counter-Measure operations.



Next Week Preview

Next week I'll be delivering a presentation and moderating a tabletop exercise at the Managing the Message workshop in Pendleton, OR. There should be good highlights to share as this event includes PIO's from throughout the country and others from Europe and Australia. Hopefully we'll see continuation of great submissions from others to add to the variety in next week's edition.

About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication aimed at risk 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