

RC/PIO News & Notes 3-1-2024



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator
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News and Notes

March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. The old sayings typically means that the weather will be tumultuous at the start of this month, and calm by the end of the month. As we know from past experiences, when it comes to weather in Georgia, just about anything can happen, and usually does. For highlights this week we have the quarterly BioWatch – Health Security meeting, leadership training sessions, and other DPH state and district activities.

BioWatch

The Atlanta BioWatch Advisory Committee held its first quarterly meeting of the year Monday in Tucker. BAC Chair Jessica Pavlick gave an overview of the program operations and related plans. She said these may be tested in the form of an exercise, possibly in May this year. Jurisdictional Coordinator Simran Kaur provided updates from national and regional perspectives. PHEP Director Leah Hoffacker talked about programmatic updates for both PHEP and HPP as she remains the director for both (HPP Interim). Committee members also discussed early plans for major events coming to Atlanta in the next two years, including college basketball playoffs, the Major League Baseball All Star game, and the FIFA World Cup.



Leadership Training

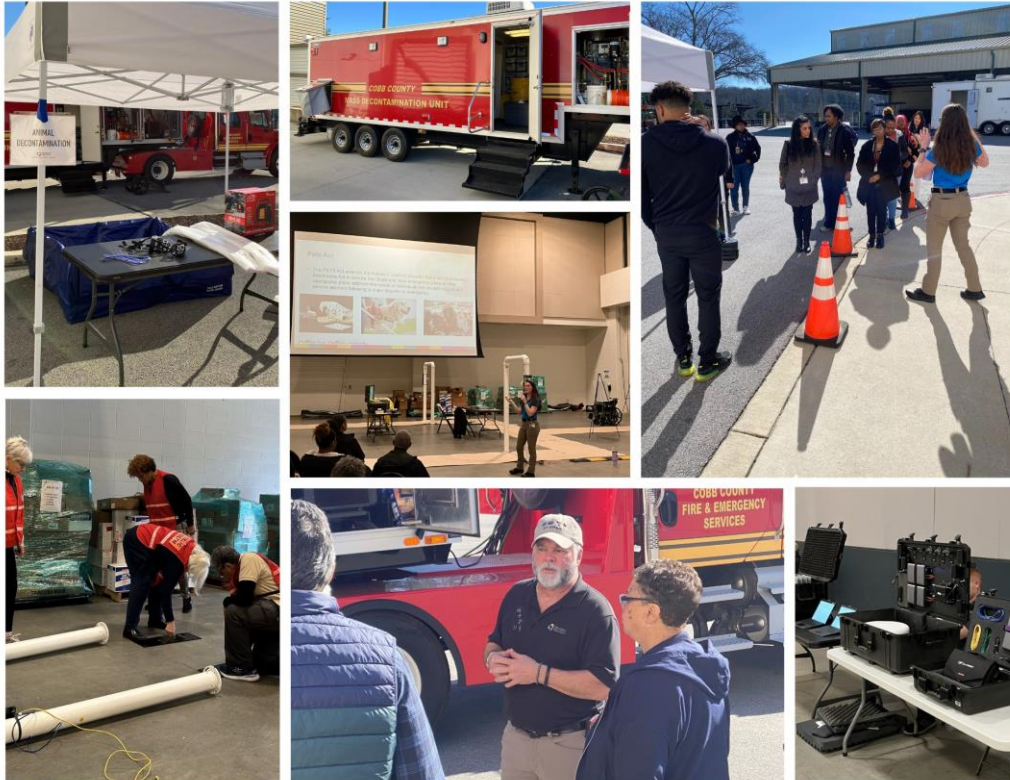
Thanks to LaKieva Williams for sending the pictures of this week's executive leadership and Healthcare Coalition strategic planning sessions held in Macon. Day 1, Tuesday, featured updates from the workgroups created last year tasked with strengthening strategic priorities. 'All About Alignment,' was the theme for day 2 with all 14 coalitions represented at the meeting.



CRC Event in Cobb/Douglas

Thanks to Russell Goutierez for sending this update on a recent Community Reception Center activity in district 3-1:

District 3-1 CRC Setup Exercise & Staff/Partner Familiarization Tour 05-06Feb24



District 3-1 held a Community Reception Center (CRC) Setup Exercise and Staff/Partner Familiarization Tour on February 5th and 6th at Jim R. Miller Park in Marietta. The exercise validated the District Radiological Response Plan while providing opportunities for improvement to be incorporated into the AAR/IP. The tour featured a briefing on CRCs' purpose and operations followed by a walkthrough during which CDPH staff provided station overviews and answered questions.

The tour drew over 50 attendees representing partners, other districts, the state, the CDC, and our own agency. Special thanks to everyone who contributed to making this event a success. Photos courtesy of Risë Wood; Saneika Thomas; John Houser; and Russell Goutierez.

Statewide DPH Risk Communicators meeting

Plans are being finalized for the annual statewide DPH risk communicators meeting March 19 in Albany. A final agenda and reminder will be sent the week before the meeting. While most districts have indicated they will have one or more representatives at the meeting, there were a few who indicated that they could not make the trip, so a virtual option is in the works. Once that happens, a Teams link will be sent directly to all PIO's and risk communicators who will be asked not to forward it without expressed written consent. The idea behind that is to keep these meetings as open honest forums in which folks can express all thoughts and concerns that they choose. For that same reason, the session will not be recorded.

Media / CERC training

Registration is closed for the March 20, DPH Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication class at the Dougherty County Health Department. If anyone would like to attend, please reach out directly and you will likely be added at that time. Thanks to everyone who has been helping to organize the event. It will be an exciting and educational day for all.



Next Week Preview

Monday there is a Medical Support Shelter virtual workshop. Throughout the week there are multiple meetings aimed at developing a multi-disciplinary state tabletop exercise, in addition to meetings for Emergency Preparedness, Agriculture and opioid misuse prevention efforts. Later today there will be an overview of the new CDC website (beta version). The goal is to reduce the current content by 60-percent when the updated site goes live in April. Previous URL's will reroute for a period of time. We'll continue to provide updates as this will likely affect virtually everyone within DPH and beyond.



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