

# RC/PIO News & Notes 6-13-2025



FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator  
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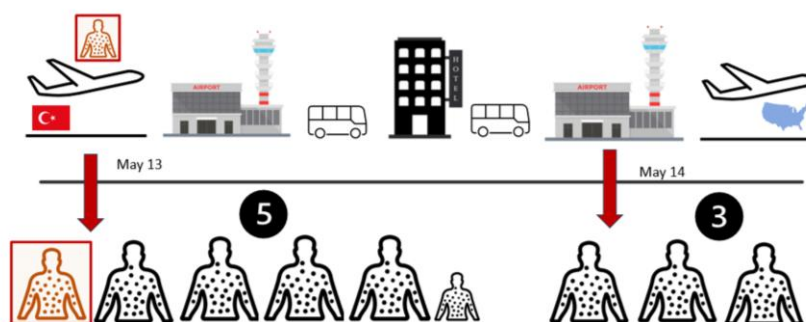
## News and Notes

Highlights this week include meetings for state health board members, DPH risk communicators and members of the Region L Healthcare Coalition.

## State Board of Health meeting

The monthly state Health Board meeting this week included a measles update from Dr. Cherie Drenzek. Georgia now has five cases this year, with much higher numbers being reported in Texas and Ontario, Canada. Dr. Drenzek says recent cases in Colorado prompted new CDC recommendations that all travelers should be fully vaccinated against measles. Measles spread quickly in the mile high city beginning on the airplane itself during a return flight from Turkey.

### Denver Airport Measles Outbreak



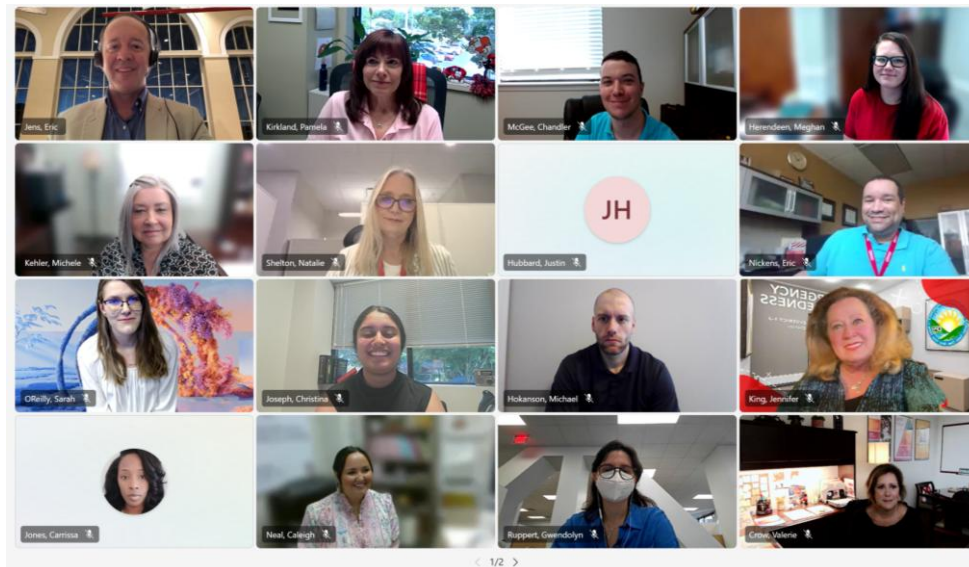
## Overdose Prevention

Thanks to Katy Freund for the update on last week's session at the MARTA Safety Fair: *The Opioid and Substance Misuse Program was invited to participate in MARTA's Safety Fair at the headquarters in Atlanta to educate MARTA staff on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose and provide naloxone (Narcan) to staff who may encounter a citizen, family member, or friend experiencing an overdose. The response from the attendees was great! They were inquisitive and engaging.*



# Quarterly PIO meeting

Thanks to all who attended and who presented at the quarterly statewide DPH Risk Communicators meeting Wednesday. We had 30 on the call, representing 16 of 18 health districts. A recording of the meeting is posted to the EPR PIO Teams channel.



We heard some details regarding the purpose and process of creating Impact Statements from Leah Hoffacker. These will be used in a variety of forms to help highlight the work of DPH Emergency Preparedness statewide. The Knack resource library was introduced, and with the help of Gwen Ruppert, a number of districts are now better connected to this reporting tool. The public facing on-line support tool 'Findhelp' was presented by Kelsey Allen, Associate Principal, Customer Success at Findhelp. Frederick Dobard-Gary talked about accessibility requirements that go into effect next April for website content. Saneika Thomas and Thalia Kennedy provided an overview of the planning for Full Scale Exercises. This includes Tranquil Passport (Atlanta metro, June 27), BioWatch (Atlanta metro, November), and the statewide Vigilant Guard exercise (December 2-5).

**Scenario**

- The FSLTT partners and DOD exercises crisis and consequence management activities. Elements of the US Government and the CBRNE Response Enterprise (CRE) respond to the detonation of a nuclear device in vicinity of (IVO) Atlanta. The result is widespread destruction, injury, and contamination of large numbers of people and infrastructure.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## Region L Coalition meeting



The Region L Healthcare Coalition held a quarterly meeting one week ago today and heard an overview of how best to prepare for hurricane season that began just less than two weeks ago. Lowndes County EMA Director Ashley Tye listed many of the emergency items to have on hand and stressed the value of strong partnerships and communication. He said one of the biggest problems in a disaster is people just start making stuff up. He cautioned to always verify information before sharing it. Tropical storm impacts in Georgia have been devastating and costly each year since 2016. The coalition also heard from Frank Daniell about Web EOC dashboard updates and Kalie Burke about disaster recovery as it relates to mental health for all involved.

## Next Week Preview

Next week Tuesday is the monthly DPH EPR state staff meeting. There are more planning meetings for the Tranquil Passport full scale exercise that will be held the following week. Next Wednesday I'll be taking the class on CPR training by Sean Graham.

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