

# RC/PIO News & Notes 8-8-2025



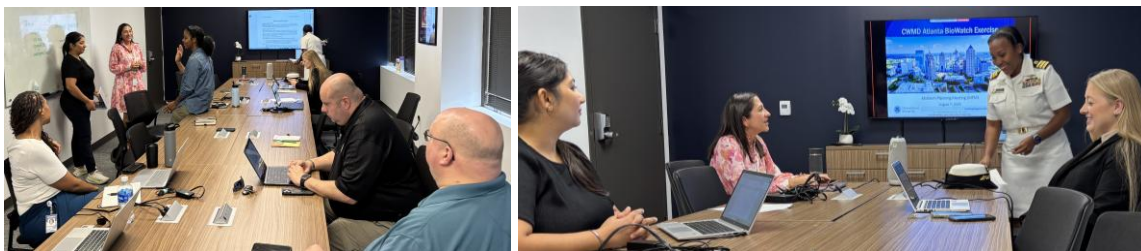
FROM Eric Jens, GA DPH Risk Communicator  
Contents may be FYUO – FOR YOUR USE ONLY

## News and Notes

Highlights this week include a BioWatch exercise planning meeting, the Region C Healthcare Coalition meeting, and a preview of upcoming events.

## BioWatch Exercise

A full-scale exercise is being planned for the Atlanta BioWatch Advisory Committee to be held November 12-14. BAC planning team members met Thursday with representatives from the national program for a Mid Planning Meeting to review the Master Scenario Event List. There are numerous risk communication components to the exercise that will test the BioWatch Media Standard Operating Guide.



## Rapid Support Team

Thanks to Russell Goutierez for sending us pictures and an update on the recently conducted Rapid Response Team orientation held in district 3-1:

*While anyone may be called upon during a public health emergency, RST volunteers receive specialized training and are available for immediate deployment. This critical support will enhance our readiness to deliver medical countermeasures in scenarios that require mass prophylaxis to begin within hours of notification. The orientation included a classroom segment followed by a hands-on tour of EP&R assets, including our rapid-deployment site units. A full day of training is planned for the fall.*



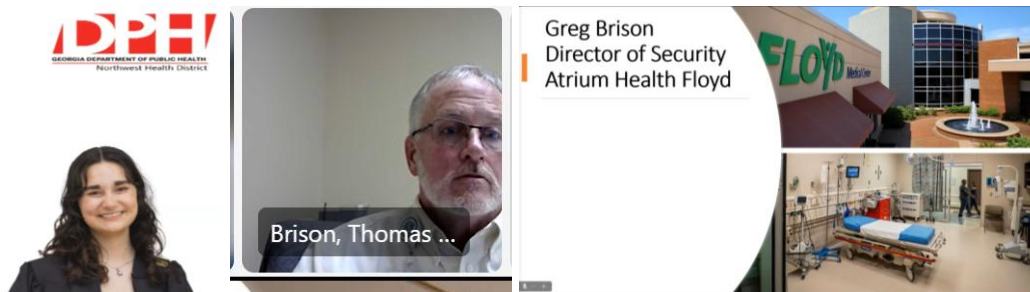
## September R/C meeting and more

The next quarterly statewide DPH Risk Communicators meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, September 9. We'll talk about the latest activities for the Communications Section of the Georgia Public Health Association, exercise opportunities, and more. Thanks to those who have agreed to speak with our group.

Also coming soon will be updates to Media / Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication trainings, the state EPR web page, and the format for this newsletter. Meetings to discuss each of these three endeavors were held this week.

## Region C meeting

The Region C Healthcare Coalition held a quarterly meeting virtually on Tuesday. The group welcomed DPH District 1-1 Health Educator Sarah Weiss, and heard from Greg (Thomas) Brison, security director at Atrium Health Floyd. He spoke about a recent tabletop exercise with numerous partners who talked through a simulated mass casualty incident. Kris Mattson, director of system safety and emergency management at Children's Healthcare Of Atlanta talked about extensive hospital relocation efforts. Coalition members also heard epidemiological updates from DPH Health Districts 1-1 and 4.



## Next Week Preview

A Vigilant Guard exercise training seminar will be held throughout the day Tuesday of next week. The National Public Health Information Coalition is hosting a training session throughout the afternoon Wednesday to walk through the new risk communication guide.

### 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)