

Georgia Department of Public Health: Strike & Support Team Office Hours Kick-Off for Skilled Nursing Care Centers, Hospice, ICFs, and Medical Directors Friday, June 17, 2022 | 11 a.m. ET



# Meet the Team:



#### Presenter:

#### Swati Gaur, MD, MBA, CMD, AGSF

Medical Director, Alliant Health Solutions

**Christina Meza, MPH** NWSS Epidemiologist II Georgia Department of Public Health

#### Panelists:

#### Melody Brown, MSM

Patient Safety Manager Alliant Health Solutions

#### **Teresa Fox, BS, MT (ASCP), M.Ed., CIC** Georgia Department of Public Health Infection Preventionist

#### Regina Howard, BSN, RN, CIC

Georgia Department of Public Health Infection Preventionist



# **Thank You to Our Partners**

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia





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## Purpose:

- These sessions will consist of a regularly scheduled monthly webinar for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and SNF medical directors. Office hours are your opportunity to come and learn, share, vent and more!
- Each month, we will provide updates on infection prevention, clinical protocols and ideas for new tools and resources. This is your chance to access subject matter experts on infection control and clinical practice in long-term care.
- Come prepared to pose your questions to subject matter experts and learn from your peers about their best practices and barriers.

# Trainings

There will be two training sessions per year focused on relevant infection prevention topics, updates and shared best practices.

- July Office Hours (7/15/2022): C. diff Treatment and Prevention and Control Updates
- August Office Hours (8/19/2022): Cleaning and Disinfestation of Shared Medical Equipment
- Training 2: October/Dates TBD





# **Your Opinion Matters**

Share in Chat what is keeping you up at night related to infection prevention.

We want to provide you with information that is relevant to what you are doing everyday.



# Hot off the Press

- Fast increasing new subvariants BA4 and BA 5
- Definition of up-to-date vaccination has changed to the second booster if eligible

<sup>2</sup> You are also considered up to date if

- You have completed your primary series but are not yet eligible for a booster
- You have received 1 booster but are not recommended to get a 2nd booster
- You have received 1 booster but are not yet eligible for a 2nd booster



#### **Free Osha Trainings for Long Term Healthcare Facilities** Infectious Diseases (COVID-19) Training 1 Hour Awareness and 6 Hour Detailed Courses



Georgia Tech is providing FREE training, funded by a Susan Harwood Grant, on Infectious Diseases (COVID-19) and OSHA's Emergency Temporary Standard for Long-term Healthcare facilities. These free courses will highlight OSHA key's standards applicable to infectious diseases, and will provide employees with further resources to protect their employees.



Click here for more information.

#### National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS)

An Introduction to Wastewater Surveillance in Georgia

Alliant Solutions LTCF Presentation | Cristina Meza, MPH | NWSS Epidemiologist II | June 17, 2022

# **Overview of Topics Covered**

- Why Wastewater?
- National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS)
- Georgia Wastewater Surveillance Network/GA NWSS
- Using & Interpreting Wastewater Data
- Big Picture: Wastewater-Based Epidemiology



### Why Wastewater?

https://newsroom.ocfl.net/2021/12/monitoring-covid-wastewater-surveillance-is-an-effective-method/

# The History of Wastewater



O'Reilly et al.

## How Wastewater Surveillance Works



Source: <u>https://gray-wdbj-prod.cdn.arcpublishing.com/resizer/xLHaV27AiYhni3AiQhrEcOdkUS8=/1200x675/smart/filters:quality(85)/cloudfront-us-east-1.images.arcpublishing.com/gray/HZOM6EVNYFC37PGTBOFGO3DYII.jpg,; Images from Microsoft PowerPoint 2022</u>

# Why Wastewater?

#### Using wastewater for COVID-19 surveillance allows us to...

- 1. Detect RNA regardless of symptoms status
- 2. Detect RNA regardless of testing availability or behaviors
- 3. Utilize data sooner than other surveillance or case-based data

#### **Overall Goal**

To complement existing COVID-19 surveillance and act as a sentinel surveillance system in times of low prevalence



Water Reclamation

Facility

Wastewater, or sewage, is collected prior to entering treatment facility for testing of SARS-CoV-2 RNA

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases (DFWED)

#### National Wastewater Surveillance System

https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/surveillance/images/wastewater-surveillance/GettyImages-516587669-500px.jpg?\_=68864 https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/surveillance/wastewater-surveillance/wastewater-surveillance.html

## CDC NWSS Structure



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases (DFWED), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID Data Tracker. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2022, May 03. https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracke

## NWSS in the United States



#### Georgia Wastewater Surveillance Network

## Wastewater Surveillance Activities in GA



## **UGA Wastewater Surveillance**



# Building Interdisciplinary Partnerships



Image from Microsoft PowerPoint 2022

#### Using & Interpreting Wastewater Data

## CDC COVID Data Tracker



COVID Data Tracker. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2022, May 03. https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracke

# CDC COVID Data Tracker



# What Do These Data Show Us?

#### **1.** Current virus levels in wastewater:

- a. Shows us whether SARS-CoV-2 levels at this site are currently higher or lower than past levels at this site.
  - *i. Interpretation:* SARS-CoV-2 levels are 80-100% higher than the lowest levels of SARS-CoV-2 concentrations at this site, dating back to January 1, 2022.

#### 2. Percent change in the last 15 days:

- a. Shows us how much normalized SARS-CoV-2 viral levels in wastewater at the site increased or decreased in the current 15-day period.
  - **i.** *Interpretation:* In the last 15 days, the normalized SARS-CoV-2 viral levels in the WWTF decreased to a level that is between 10%-99% of the previous sampling data.

#### 3. Percent of wastewater samples with detectable virus in the last 15 days:

- a. Shows the percent of wastewater samples at each site that were positive for SARS-CoV-2 RNA over the last 15 days.
  - *i. Interpretation:* 80-100% of samples collected within the last 15-day period, May 15 to May 30, 2022, were positive for SARS-CoV-2 genetic material.

## Through Wastewater, Public Health Can...

1.Determine if SARS-CoV-2 concentrations are increasing or decreasing in a sewershed/WWTF. A sustained increase may indicate infections are also increasing.

1.Use wastewater surveillance as an early indicator that the number of people with COVID-19 may be increasing or decreasing.

1.Use wastewater surveillance independent of healthcare seeking behavior/access within a community.

1.Implement surveillance across a large geographic range (~ 80% of U.S. households are served by municipal wastewater collection systems).

#### Wastewater-Based Epidemiology

## Wastewater-Based Epidemiology



Sims, N., & Kasprzyk-Hordern, B. (2020). Future perspectives of wastewater-based epidemiology: monitoring infectious disease spread and resistance to the community level. *Environment international*, *139*, 105689.

### The Future of Wastewater-based Epidemiology

#### Wastewater surveillance is now being used for...



And more...

Images from Microsoft PowerPoint 2022



# of Georgia NWSS

Build infrastructure for wastewater testing in GA long-term Develop the groundwork for utilizing wastewater surveillance for other pathogens of interest (e.g., MDROs, opioids, Flu/RSV)

Continue to collaborate and build capacity for wastewater surveillance





# Acknowledgements

- Local and District Public Health
- DPH Data Analysis Team
- Georgia Association of Water Professionals
- University of Georgia, Lipp Lab
- Emory Rollins School of Public Health, Center for Global Safe WASH
- Other NWSS states
- Georgia Public Health Laboratory
- WWTF owners and operators
- And many more...



#### **GA DPH NWSS Contact Information**

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Melissa Tobin D'Angelo and Hope Dishman





# What is circulating in the community? CDC Data tracker





# **Proportion of Variants by Region**





# **BA4, BA5**

- Antibodies produced through vaccine are more effective than from natural infection alone
- Likelihood of repeat infection
- Faster increase in proportions (probably more infectious)
- Disease severity too early to comment



## How To Be Ready? The Three Pillars:



Neutralization of the SARS-CoV-2 BA.1 and BA.2 Variants **B** Responses among Vaccinated and Boosted Persons 8.4× 27× 6.1× 1.4×  $10^{5} 23 \times$ 6539 Neutralizing Antibody Titer 1066 776  $10^{4}-$ 658  $10^{3}-$ 129 <20 <20 24 102-101 NA NA BAI SAI 8A. 8A.2 WA BA! Prime **Before Booster** After Booster

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https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2201849



# **Pfizer Vaccine Recommendations**

Pfizer-BioNTech		
Primary Series: 2 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech given 3–8 weeks apart [1]		
Fully Vaccinated: 2 weeks after final dose in primary series		
Boosters:		
1 booster, preferably of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine		
<ul> <li>1 booster, preferably of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine</li> <li>For most people at least 5 months after the final dose in the primary series</li> </ul>		
1 booster, preferably of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine • For most people at least 5 months after the final dose in the primary series 2nd booster of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine		

Up to Date: Immediately after getting all boosters recommended for you [2]



### **Moderna Vaccine Recommendations**

Moderna			
Primary Series: 2 doses of Moderna given 4–8 weeks apart [1]			
Fully Vaccinated: 2 weeks after final dose in primary series			
Boosters:			
1 booster, preferably of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine			
• For most people at least 5 months after the final dose in the primary series			
2nd booster of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine			
• For adults ages 50 years and older at least 4 months after the 1st booster			

Up to Date: Immediately after getting all boosters recommended for you [2]



# **J&J Vaccine Recommendations**

Johnson & Johnson's Janssen			
<b>Primary Series:</b> 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen			
Fully Vaccinated: 2 weeks after vaccination			
Boosters:			
1 booster, preferably of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine			
• For most people at least 2 months after a J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine			
2nd booster of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine			
• For adults ages 50 years and older at least 4 months after the 1st booster			
<b>Up to Date:</b> Immediately after getting all boosters recommended for you <sup>[2]</sup>			



# Vaccine Administration Questions

Intervals <sup>1</sup>	<ul> <li>An mRNA primary series dose administered prior to the recommended interval<sup>#</sup></li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Repeat dose after the dose given in error by at least the minimum interval (i.e., no sooner than 21 days if Pfizer-BioNTech or 28 days of Moderna).<sup>§</sup></li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Booster dose administered prior to the recommended interval</li> </ul>	• Do <b>not</b> repeat dose.
	<ul> <li>Any COVID-19 vaccine dose administered at any interval after the recommended interval</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Do not repeat dose. There is no maximum interval. This deviation from CDC guidance does not require VAERS reporting.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Tixagevimab/cilgavimab (EVUSHELD)<sup>™</sup> administered less than 14 days after COVID-19 vaccination</li> </ul>	• In general, do <b>not</b> repeat dose. However, based on clinical judgment, a repeat dose of vaccine may be administered at an interval of at least 28 days after the dose of vaccine.



# **Take 5 COVID Education Series**

https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/give-the-boost-a-shot/

- <u>Take 5: Introduction How to Use Take 5</u>
- Take 5: Vaccine Eligibility Part 1
- <u>Take 5: Vaccine Eligibility Part 2</u>
- <u>Take 5: Overcoming Refusals</u>
- <u>Take 5: Video 7 Additional Precautions for</u> <u>Unvaccinated Health Care Personnel</u>
- <u>Take 5: Video 8 Walkthrough Care Compare –</u> <u>Finding Public Data</u>
- <u>Take 5: Video 9 How to Stay Up-to-Date with</u> <u>Trusted Sources</u>





## **Questions?**





#### Georgia Department of Public Health HAI Team Contacts

State Region/Districts	Contact Information
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# Save the Date

# **Next Office Hours:** July 15, 2022 11a.m.







How to Participate in Alliant's Readmissions Twitter Chat

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia





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#### Making Health Care Better





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