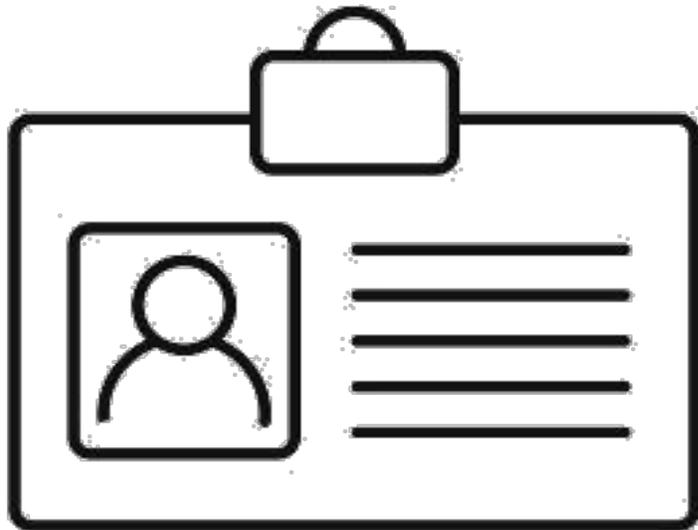




Georgia Department of Public Health:
Strike & Support Team GADPH Office Hours for NHs & SNFs
May 26, 2023

Meet the Team



Presenter:

Erica Umeakunne, MSN, MPH, APRN, CIC
Infection Prevention Specialist
Alliant Health Solutions

Erica Umeakunne, MSN, MPH, APRN, CIC

Infection Prevention Specialist

Alliant Health Solutions

Erica Umeakunne is an adult-gerontology nurse practitioner and infection preventionist with experience in primary care, critical care, health care administration and public health.

She was previously the interim hospital epidemiology director for a large health care system in Atlanta and a nurse consultant in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. At the CDC, she served as an infection prevention and control (IPC) subject matter expert for domestic and international IPC initiatives and emergency responses, including Ebola outbreaks and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Erica enjoys reading, traveling, family time, and outdoor activities.

Contact: Erica.Umeakunne@allianthealth.org



Thank You to Our Partners

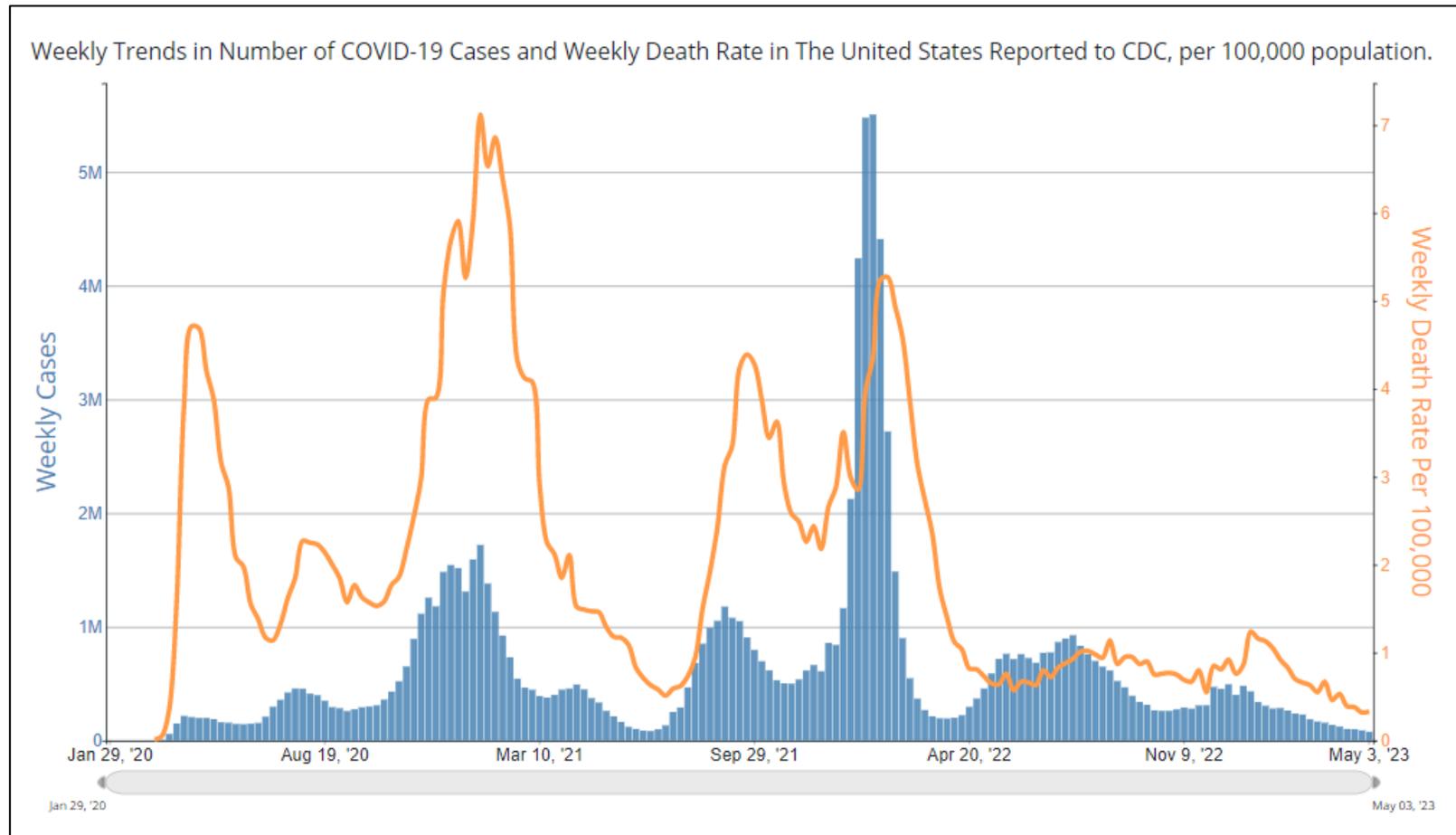
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



Objectives

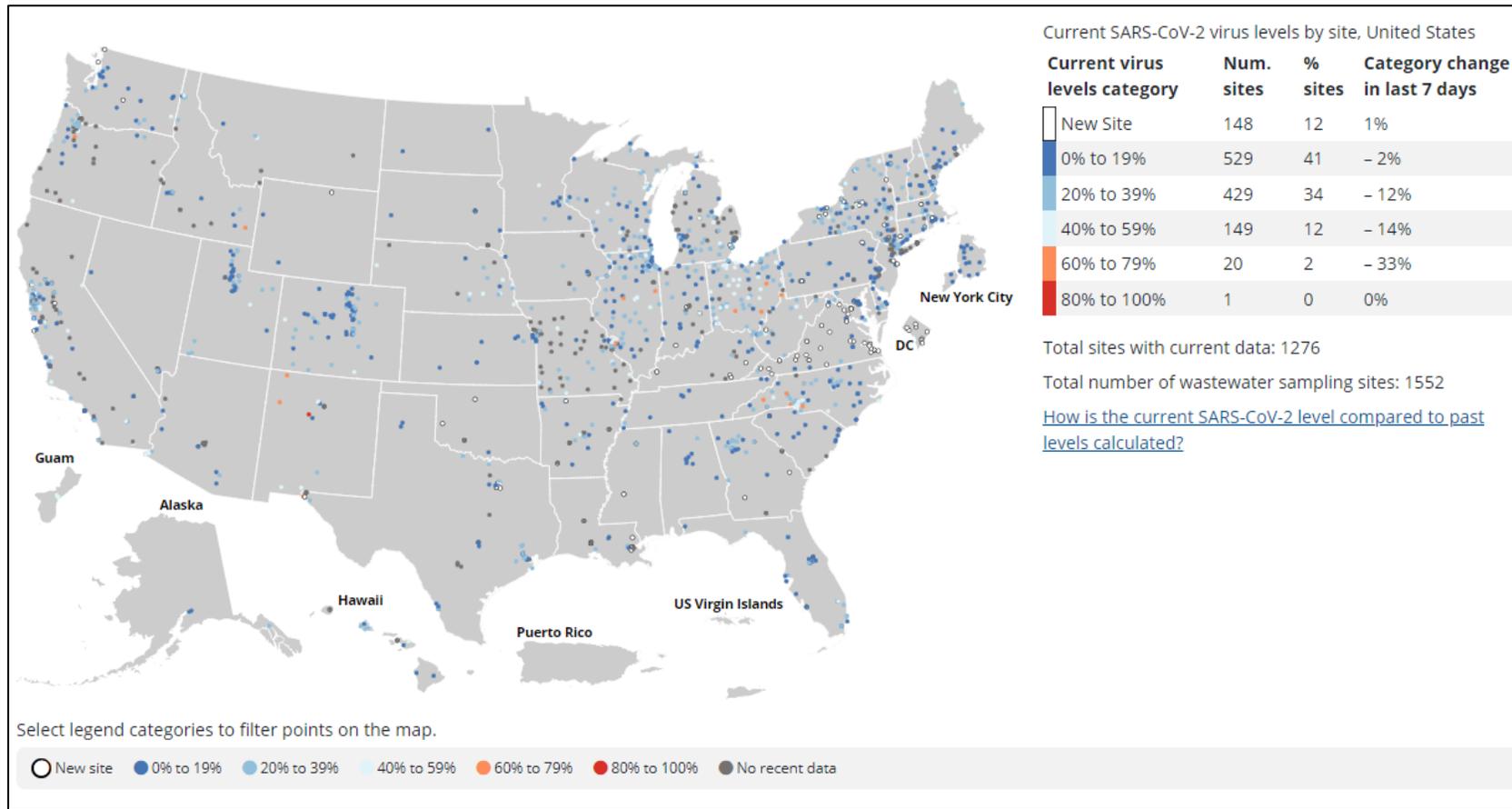
- Provide an update on COVID-19 epidemiology
- Discuss the end of the public health emergency and relevant policies
- Highlight infection prevention and control (IPC) lessons learned and strategies to prevent COVID-19 and other infections in nursing facilities
- Share Alliant Health Solutions resources to support COVID-19 IPC activities

COVID-19 Cases and Deaths



https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_weeklycases_7daydeathper100k_00

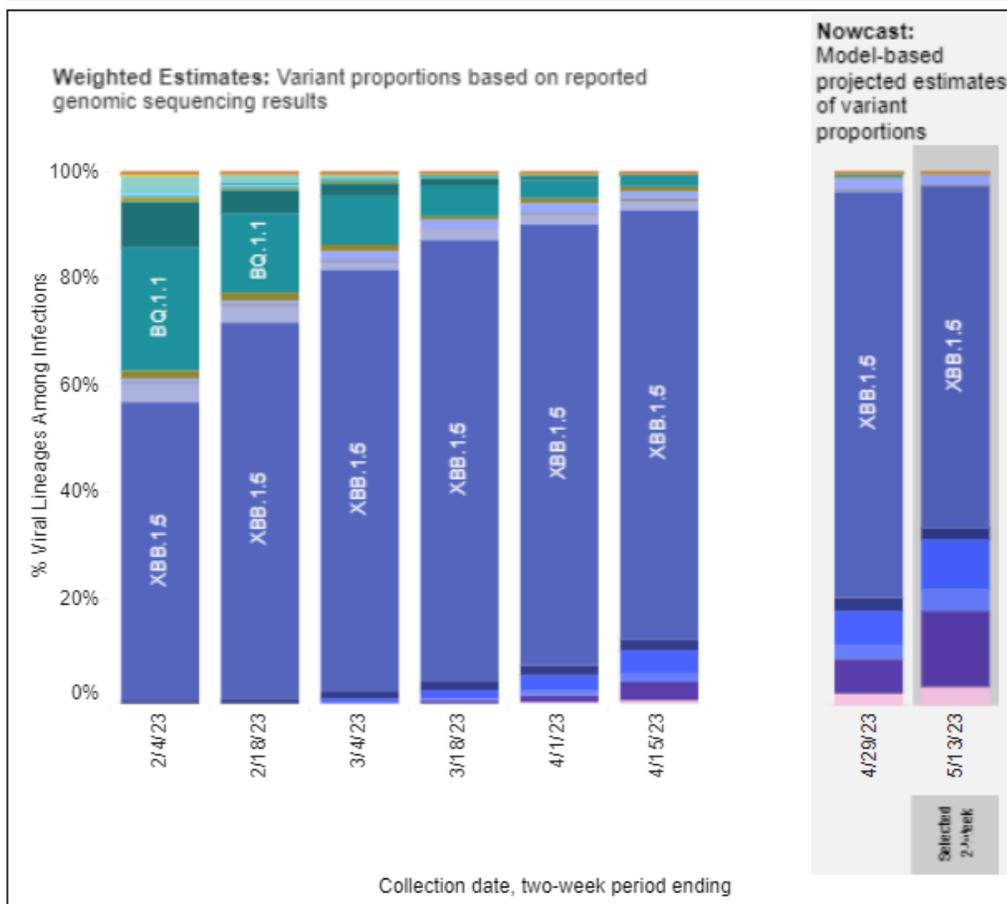
Wastewater COVID-19 Surveillance



Weighted and Nowcast Estimates in United States for 2-Week Periods in 1/22/2023 – 5/13/2023

Nowcast Estimates in United States for 4/30/2023 – 5/13/2023

 Hover over (or tap in mobile) any lineage of interest to see the amount of uncertainty in that lineage's estimate.



USA				
WHO label	Lineage #	US Class	%Total	95%PI
Omicron	XBB.1.5	VOC	64.0%	59.1-68.6%
	XBB.1.16	VOC	14.3%	11.1-18.1%
	XBB.1.9.1	VOC	9.2%	8.0-10.6%
	XBB.1.9.2	VOC	4.0%	3.2-5.1%
	XBB.2.3	VOC	3.5%	1.9-6.3%
	XBB.1.5.1	VOC	2.4%	1.9-3.0%
	FD.2	VOC	1.8%	0.8-4.0%
	BQ.1.1	VOC	0.3%	0.1-0.5%
	CH.1.1	VOC	0.2%	0.2-0.4%
	XBB	VOC	0.2%	0.1-0.4%
	BQ.1	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.1%
	BN.1	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	BA.5	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	BA.2.12.1	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.1%
	BA.2	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
BA.2.75	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.0%	
BF.7	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.0%	
BA.5.2.6	VOC	0.0%	0.0-0.0%	
Other	Other*		0.0%	0.0-0.0%

Public Health Emergency (PHE)

- Initially declared in January 2020
- **Ended May 11, 2023**
- Coverage, costs, and payment for COVID-19 testing, treatments, and vaccines
- Medicaid coverage and federal match rates
- Telehealth (extended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act until the end of 2024)

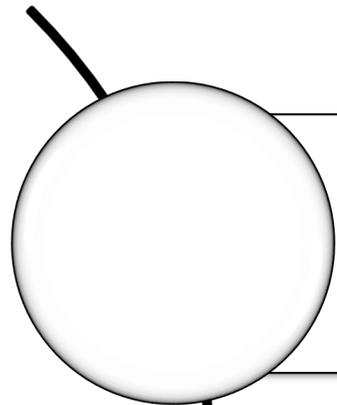
National Emergency Declaration

- Issued in March 2020
- **Ended May 11, 2023**
- Private insurance coverage flexibilities

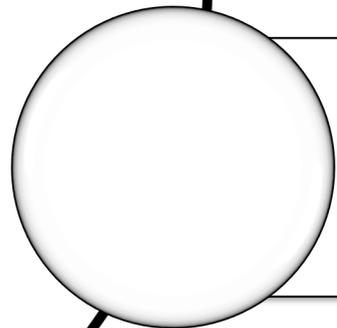
Emergency Declaration by Health & Human Services

- Initially declared in February 2020
- Allows EUA for medical interventions (vaccines, drugs)
- Stays in effect until terminated by the HHS Secretary; no current end date

COVID-19 Emergency Response Transition: Implications for Infection Prevention and Control



COVID-19 Data



COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Practices

CDC Data and Surveillance: Available Metrics

- COVID-19 Hospital Admissions
- COVID-19 deaths (data source change)
- Emergency Department COVID-19 Visits (weekly)
- COVID-19 test positivity (data source change)
- Wastewater & genomic surveillance
- COVID-19 vaccine administration data (limited)
- Percentage of COVID-19 associated deaths (NEW)

CDC Data Tracking Updates: Removed Data



National, county-level test positivity data



National reporting weekly counts of COVID-19 cases and associated deaths



V-safe Tracking System for health check-ins



COVID-19 Community Levels (guided non-healthcare settings IPC practices)



Transmission Levels (guided health care facility IPC practices)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/end-of-phe.html>
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7219e1.htm?s_cid=mm7219e1_w

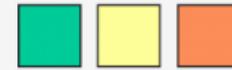
CDC Updates: Community COVID-19 Risk and Infection Prevention Practices

- Replaced COVID-19 Community Levels with [COVID-19 hospital admission levels](#) to guide prevention decisions. Changes based on:
 - MMWR: [COVID-19 Surveillance After Expiration of the Public Health Emergency Declaration – United States, May 11, 2023](#)
 - MMWR: [Correlations and Timeliness of COVID-19 Surveillance Data Sources and Indicators – United States, October 1, 2020–March 22, 2023](#)

Individual COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

LOW, MEDIUM, AND HIGH

At all COVID-19 hospital admission levels:



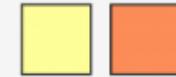
- [Stay up to date](#) on vaccination.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow the recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19.
- If you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Individual COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

MEDIUM AND HIGH

When the COVID-19 hospital admission level is
Medium or High:



- If you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), wear a high-quality mask or respirator (e.g., N95) when indoors in public.
- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Individual COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

HIGH

When the COVID-19 hospital admission level is

High:

- Wear a high-quality mask or respirator.
- If you are at high risk of getting very sick, consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed.



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Community-Level Prevention Strategies

LOW, MEDIUM, AND HIGH

At all COVID-19 hospital admission levels:



- Promote equitable access to vaccination, testing, masks and respirators, treatment and prevention medications, community outreach, and support services.
- Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Provide communications and messaging to encourage isolation among people who test positive.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Community-Level Prevention Strategies

MEDIUM AND HIGH

When the COVID-19 hospital admission level is
Medium or High:



- Implement screening testing in high-risk settings where screening testing is recommended.

HIGH

When the COVID-19 hospital admission level is
High:



- Implement healthcare surge support as needed.

Considerations for Multifamily Housing (Assisted Living Facilities, Group Homes, Retirement Communities)

- Applies to long-term care settings (excluding nursing homes) whose staff provide non-skilled personal care*
- Guiding principles and considerations:
 - Older adults and groups experiencing disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
 - Communal spaces, community activities, and close living quarters in multifamily housing increase the risk of getting and spreading the virus
 - [Prepare to identify residents at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness](#), collaborate with their local health departments, and protect their employees' health and safety

CDC Updates: Additional Information for Community Congregate Living Settings (e.g., Group Homes, Assisted Living)

- Facilities that serve unrelated people who live in close proximity and share at least one common room (e.g., group or personal care homes and assisted living facilities) should apply prevention strategies based on [COVID-19 hospital admission levels](#) for their general operations.
- Health care services delivered in these settings should be informed by [CDC's Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](#).
- Facilities can also assess the unique risks of their setting and the populations they serve and use enhanced COVID-19 prevention strategies to help reduce the impact of COVID-19.

CDC Updates: Additional Information for Community Congregate Living Settings (e.g., Group Homes, Assisted Living)

- Increase and [improve ventilation](#) as much as possible and consider moving activities outdoors when possible.
- Consult with the health department about testing strategies, including whether to implement routine [screening testing](#).
- Expand the use of masks and respirators.
- Add [enhanced cleaning and disinfection](#) protocols.
- Create [physical distance](#) in congregate areas where possible and/or reduce movement and contact between different parts of the facility and between the facility and the community, as appropriate.

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Health Care Personnel During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Setting-specific Updates

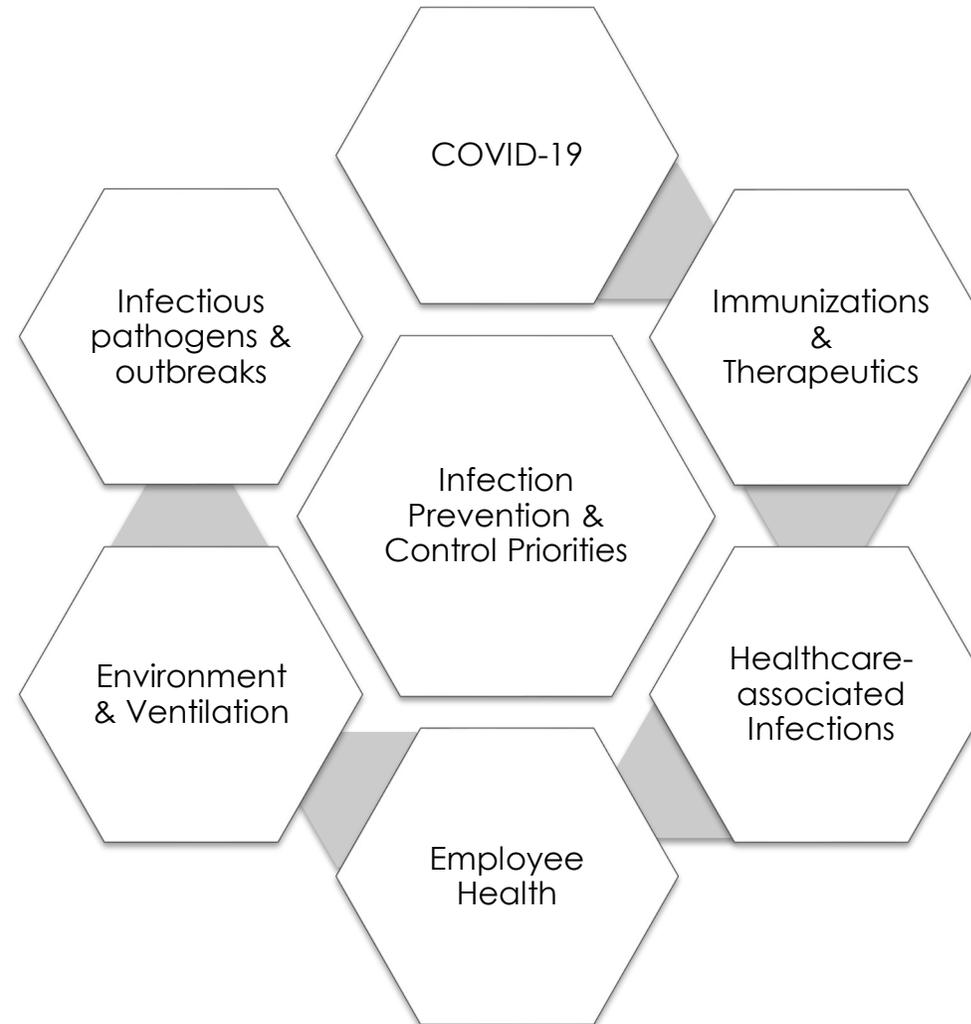
- Visiting or shared health care personnel who enter the setting to provide health care to one or more residents (e.g., physical therapy, wound care, intravenous injections, or catheter care provided by home health agency nurses) should follow the [health care IPC recommendations](#).
- If staff in a residential care setting provide in-person services for a resident with SARS-CoV-2 infection, they should be familiar with [health care IPC recommendations](#) to protect themselves and others from potential exposures.
 - Hand hygiene
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Cleaning and disinfection practices

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

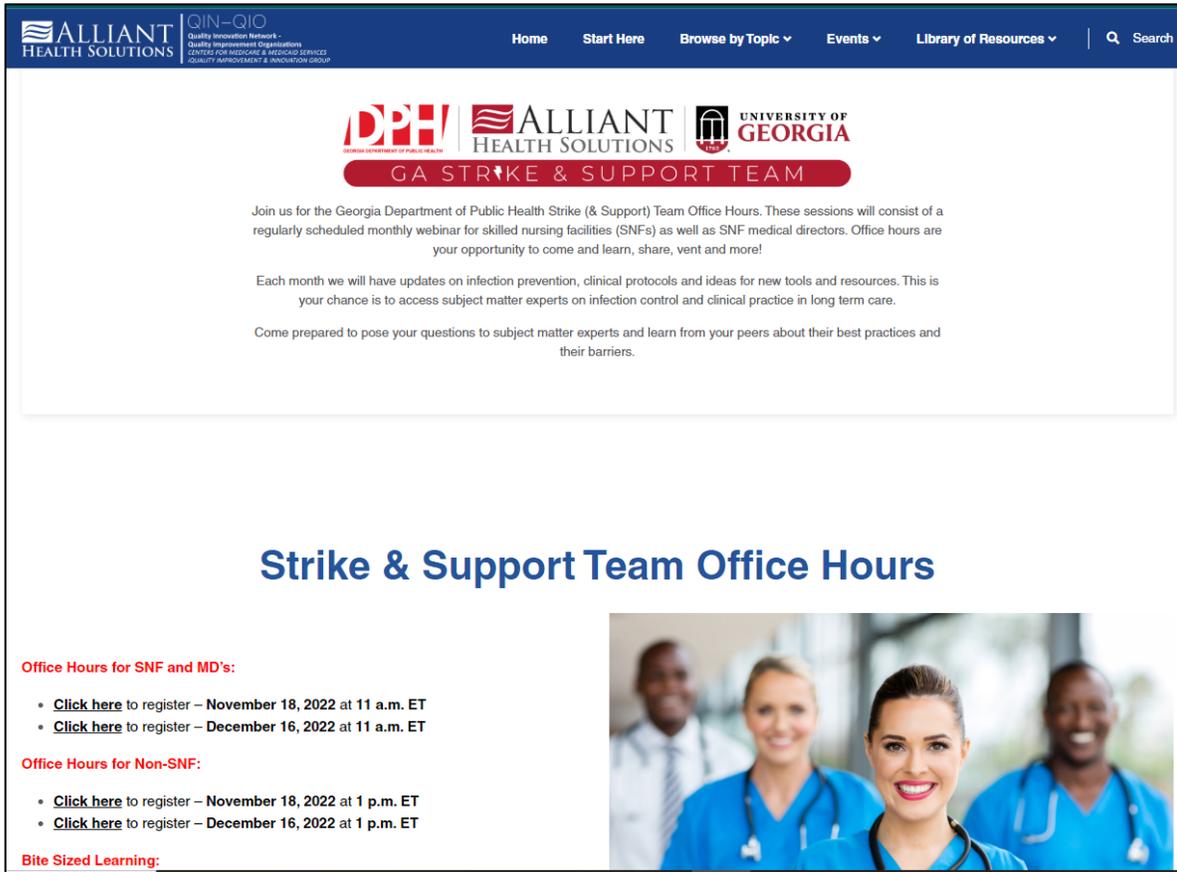
Infection Prevention and Control Practices

- Standard precautions always apply
 - Hand Hygiene
 - Source control/ Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette
 - Use personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriately
 - PPE use based on anticipated exposure to blood/body fluids
 - Safe injection practices
 - Cleaning and disinfection
 - Safe linen handling
- Consult with your state or local public health authorities

COVID-19 Transition: IPC Priorities and Lessons Learned



Alliant Health Solutions Resources



GA STRIKE & SUPPORT TEAM

Join us for the Georgia Department of Public Health Strike (& Support) Team Office Hours. These sessions will consist of a regularly scheduled monthly webinar for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) as well as SNF medical directors. Office hours are your opportunity to come and learn, share, vent and more!

Each month we will have updates on infection prevention, clinical protocols and ideas for new tools and resources. This is your chance is 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 their barriers.

Strike & Support Team Office Hours

Office Hours for SNF and MD's:

- [Click here](#) to register – November 18, 2022 at 11 a.m. ET
- [Click here](#) to register – December 16, 2022 at 11 a.m. ET

Office Hours for Non-SNF:

- [Click here](#) to register – November 18, 2022 at 1 p.m. ET
- [Click here](#) to register – December 16, 2022 at 1 p.m. ET

Bite Sized Learning:



<https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/georgia-department-of-public-health/>



Infection Control Resources

Sepsis

- [HQIC Sepsis Gap Assessment and Action Steps](#)
- [HQIC Sepsis: Spot the Signs Magnet](#)
- [HQIC Sepsis Provider Engagement](#)
- [AQ Sepsis-ZoneTool](#)
- [Recognition and Management of Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock](#)

Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)

- [CAUTI Gap Assessment Tool](#)
- [Urinary Catheter Quick Observation Tool](#)
- [CDC-HICPAC Guideline for Prevention of CAUTI 2009](#)
- [AHRQ Toolkit for Reducing CAUTI in Hospitals](#)
- [CDC TAP CAUTI Implementation Guide](#)

Hand Hygiene

- [Handwash the FROG Way – Badges – English](#)
- [Handwash the FROG Way – Badges – Spanish](#)
- [Handwash the FROG Way – Poster – English](#)
- [Handwash the FROG Way – Poster – Spanish](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions – Alcohol Based Hand Rub](#)

NHSN

- [Joining the Alliant Health Solutions NHSN Group](#)
- [Instructions for Submitting C. difficile Data Into NHSN](#)
- [5-Step Enrollment for Long-term Care Facilities](#)
- [CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network \(NHSN\)](#)
- [NHSN Enrollment/ LAN Event Presentation](#)

Clostridioides Difficile Infection (C. difficile)

- [C.difficile Training](#)
- [Nursing Home Training Sessions Introduction](#)
- [Nursing Home C.difficile Infection](#)

Antibiotic Stewardship

- [Antibiotic Stewardship Basics](#)
- [A Field Guide to Antibiotic Stewardship In Outpatient Settings](#)
- [Physician Commitment Letter](#)
- [Be Antibiotics Aware](#)
- [Taking Your Antibiotics](#)

Training

- [Options for Infection Control Training In Nursing Homes Flyer](#)

COVID-19

- [Invest In Trust \(AHRQ Resource for CNA COVID-19 Vaccines\)](#)
- [Nursing Home Staff and Visitor Screening Toolkit – PDF](#)
- [Nursing Home Staff and Visitor Screening Toolkit – Excel](#)

<https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/infection-control/>

Questions?



GADPH Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Team

State Region/Districts	Contact Information
North (Rome, Dalton, Gainesville, Athens) Districts 1-1, 1-2, 2, 10	<u>Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov</u> (404-967-0582)
Atlanta Metro (Cobb-Douglas, Fulton, Clayton, Lawrenceville, DeKalb, LaGrange) Districts 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 4	<u>Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov</u> (256-293-9994) <u>Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov</u> (678-357-4797)
Central (Dublin, Macon, Augusta, & Columbus) Districts 5-1, 5-2, 6, 7	<u>Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov</u> (404-967-0589) <u>Karen.Williams13@dph.ga.gov</u> (404-596-1732)
Southwest (Albany, Valdosta) Districts 8-1, 8-2	<u>Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov</u> (404-596-1940)
Southeast (Savannah, Waycross) Districts 9-1, 9-2	<u>Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov</u> (804-514-8756)
Backup/Nights/Weekends	<u>Joanna.Wagner@dph.ga.gov</u> (404-430-6316)

Thank You for Your Time!
Contact the AHS Patient Safety Team
Patientsafety@allianthealth.org



Amy Ward, MS, BSN, RN, CIC
Patient Safety Manager
Amy.Ward@AlliantHealth.org
678.527.3653



Paula St. Hill, MPH, A-IPC
Technical Advisor, Infection Prevention
Paula.StHill@AlliantHealth.org
678.527.3619



Donald Chitanda, MPH, CIC
Technical Advisor, Infection Prevention
Donald.Chitanda@AlliantHealth.org
678.527.3651



Erica Umeakunne, MSN, MPH, APRN, CIC
Infection Prevention Specialist
Erica.Umeakunne@AlliantHealth.org

Save the Date

SNF and Medical Directors Office Hours:

June 23, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET

ALF and PCH

June 30, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET



Thanks Again...

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

Making Health Care Better



This material was prepared by Alliant Health Solutions, under contract with the Georgia Department of Public Health as made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. GA DPH--3749-05/12/23

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