Georgia Department of Public Health:
Strike & Support Team GADPH Office Hours for ALFs & PCHs
June 23, 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. While 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 updates on the COVID-19 epidemiology and indicators

• Discuss COVID-19 metrics that help inform infection prevention and control (IPC) recommendations

• Examine the updated IPC recommendations and provide situational examples

• Share Alliant Health Solutions resources to support COVID-19 IPC activities

• Address any facility-specific IPC questions or concerns
COVID-19 Epidemiology & Indicators
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Available Metrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 hospital admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency department COVID-19 visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 test positivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastewater surveillance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genomic surveillance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Although COVID-19 cases and associated hospitalizations have decreased in recent months, COVID-19 remains an ongoing public health challenge.

Updated public health tracking* will keep you informed about COVID-19:

- Hospital admissions track Spread in communities + severity of illness
- Death certificates track Severity of illness
- Emergency department visits track Early signs of spread
- Genomic sequencing tracks New variants

Check COVID.cdc.gov to know when to take action

*To account for changes in available data after the end of the U.S. Public Health Emergency declaration

bit.ly/mm7219e1
MAY 5, 2023

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7219e1.htm?s_cid=mm7219e1_w
CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker

Weekly Update for the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitalizations</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Vaccinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Admissions (in Past Week)</td>
<td>% Due to COVID-19 (in Past Week)</td>
<td>% with Updated Booster Dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,212</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend in Hospital Admissions</td>
<td>Trend in % COVID-19 Deaths</td>
<td>Total Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-6.2% in past week</td>
<td>-14.3% in past week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*May 15, 2023 Jan 6, 2023 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Hospitalizations</th>
<th>Total Deaths</th>
<th>Total Updated Booster Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,176,446</td>
<td>1,131,439</td>
<td>56,478,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CDC: Hospitalization data through June 3, 2023; Death data through June 3, 2023; Vaccination data through May 15, 2023; Posted: June 3, 2023 6:13 PM ET

View Trends in Hospitalizations, Deaths, Emergency Visits, and Test Positivity.

View Maps of Hospitalizations, Deaths, Emergency Visits, and Test Positivity.

COVID Data Basics
Stay up to date on the most recent data on hospitalizations, deaths, emergency visits, and vaccinations.

- Hospitalizations
- Deaths
- Emergency Visits
- Vaccination Distribution & Coverage
- Vaccine Effectiveness & Breakthrough Surveillance

Variants, Wastewater, and More
Explore COVID-19 data focused on variants, wastewater surveillance, and post-COVID conditions.

- Variants & Genomic Surveillance
- Traveler-Based Genomic Surveillance
- Wastewater Surveillance
- Post-COVID Conditions

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-rate-county
U.S. Change (%) in the Percentage of COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions from Prior Week, by County

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-percent-change-county
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-percent-change-state
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases-percent-covid-deaths
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_positivity-week
The blue bars show weekly COVID-19 hospital admissions. The orange line represents weekly percentage of deaths due to COVID-19, as a timely measure of mortality trends. The percentage of COVID-19 deaths is less affected by incomplete reporting in recent weeks because death certificate data from COVID-19 and all causes have similar timeliness.
Wastewater Surveillance

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance-
Wastewater Surveillance

Wastewater Metric Map

State or territory: Select state or territory

County: Select a state in order to enable county select

Time Period: May 29, 2023 – Jun 12, 2023

Metric:
- Current virus levels in wastewater by site
- Percent change in the last 15 days
- Percent of wastewater samples with detectable virus

Show:
- Sites with no recent data
- Sites that started sampling after 12/1/21

Current virus levels in wastewater by site
This metric shows whether SARS-CoV-2 levels at a site are currently higher or lower than past historical levels at the same site. 0% means levels are the lowest they have been at the site; 100% means levels are the highest they have been at the site. Public health officials watch for increasing levels of the virus in wastewater over time and use these data to help make public health decisions.

⚠️ Note: Sites began collecting data at different times. Sites that began reporting wastewater data after December 1, 2021 are not comparable to sites that started reporting data on or before December 1, 2021. The data history for these new sites is not long enough to reflect the same surges as the other sites.

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance
Current SARS-CoV-2 virus levels by site, Georgia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current virus levels category</th>
<th>Num. sites</th>
<th>% sites</th>
<th>Category change in last 7 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Site</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% to 19%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% to 39%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% to 59%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% to 79%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% to 100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total sites with current data: 23
Total number of wastewater sampling sites: 27

How is the current SARS-CoV-2 level compared to past levels calculated?

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance
Percent change of SARS-CoV-2 in the last 15 days by site, Georgia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15-day % change category</th>
<th>Num. sites</th>
<th>% sites</th>
<th>Category change in last 7 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- 100%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 99% to - 10%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>- 38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 9% to 0%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>- 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% to 9%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% to 99%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>- 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% to 999%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>- 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000% or more</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>200%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total sites with current data: 21
Total number of wastewater sampling sites: 27

How is the 15-day percent change calculated?

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance
Percent of wastewater samples with detectable SARS-CoV-2 in the last 15 days by site, Georgia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15-day detection category</th>
<th>Num. sites</th>
<th>% sites</th>
<th>Category change in last 7 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Detect</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% to 19%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% to 39%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% to 59%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>N/A**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% to 79%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% to 100%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>– 18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total sites with current data: 21
Total number of wastewater sampling sites: 27

How is the percent of wastewater samples with detectable SARS-CoV-2 in the last 15 days calculated?

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance
Weighted and Nowcast Estimates in United States for 2-Week Periods in 2/19/2023 – 6/10/2023

Nowcast Estimates in United States for 5/28/2023 – 6/10/2023

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions
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
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.

Mitigating COVID-19 Risk in 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

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.

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.

Individual COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

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.

Case Study

Mr. Jones has been a resident at Sunshine Health Assisted Living Facility for the past year. Mr. Jones is a 72-year-old male with a history of diabetes type II and end-stage renal disease (ESRD). He has been on peritoneal dialysis for six months and independently manages his sessions/cycles. **What strategies should he consider to reduce his risk of COVID-19 infection and illness?**

A. Stay up to date with vaccination
B. Avoid contact with individuals with known or suspected COVID-19
C. Speak to his health care providers about additional actions he could take
D. All of the above
Case Study

What strategies should he consider to reduce his risk of COVID-19 infection and illness?

A. Stay up to date with vaccination
B. Avoid contact with individuals with known or suspected COVID-19
C. Speak to his healthcare providers about additional actions he could take
D. All of the above

Case Study

The Sunshine Health Assisted Living Facility administrator shared an update on COVID-19 hospital admission levels with the staff and residents. The current COVID-19 hospital admission level for the county is Medium. Given Mr. Jones’ medical history and condition, he should consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors to reduce his risk of COVID-19 exposure or illness.

A. True
B. False
Case Study

The Sunshine Health Assisted Living Facility administrator shared an update on COVID-19 hospital admission levels with the staff and residents. The current COVID-19 hospital admission level for the county is **Medium**. Given Mr. Jones’ medical history and condition, he should consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors to reduce his risk of COVID-19 exposure or illness.

A. True
B. False
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.
- Provide communications and messaging to encourage isolation among people who test positive.

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.

Case Study

The Sunshine Health Assisted Living Facility administrator shared an update on COVID-19 hospital admission levels with the staff and residents. The current COVID-19 hospital admission level for the county is **Medium**. The administrator should consider promoting information about vaccination, testing, masks, and treatments and work with the local health department to implement screening testing for high-risk resident populations/areas in their facility.

A. True
B. False
Case Study

The Sunshine Health Assisted Living Facility administrator shared an update on COVID-19 hospital admission levels with the staff and residents. The current COVID-19 hospital admission level for the county is Medium. The administrator should consider promoting information about vaccination, testing, masks, and treatments and work with the local health department to implement screening testing for high-risk resident populations/areas in their facility.

A. True
B. False

Know Your COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level

Take action to protect yourself and others in your area from COVID-19.

People may choose to wear a mask at any time. Learn when masking is most useful during travel. Masks may be required at times in certain places by state and local authorities.

COVID-19 County Check

Find hospital admission levels and prevention steps by county. Data updated weekly.

Select a Location (all fields required)

State ▼ County ▼ Go

COVID-19 County Check
Find hospital admission levels and prevention steps by county. Data updated weekly.

Select a Location (all fields required)

Georgia ▼ Fulton County ▼

< Start Over

- **Low**

  In **Fulton County, Georgia**, the COVID-19 hospital admission level is **Low**.

- **Stay up to date** with COVID-19 vaccines.
- **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.

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality mask or respirator when indoors in public.

If you are immunocompromised, learn more about how to protect yourself.

Find out more about the COVID-19 situation in **Fulton County, Georgia** with COVID-19 Data Tracker.

United States COVID-19 Hospitalizations, Deaths, Emergency Visits, and Test Positivity by Geographic Area

Maps, charts, and data provided by CDC updates weekly on Thursday by 8 p.m. ET.

View Processes and Download Data

COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS (PAST WEEK) 6,649
% CHANGE IN COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS -7.6%
COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS PER 100,000 (PAST WEEK) 2

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-rate-county
Alliant Health Solutions Resources

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


https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/infection-control/
Questions?
### GADPH Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Region/Districts</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North (Rome, Dalton, Gainesville, Athens) Districts 1-1, 1-2, 2, 10</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov">Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-967-0582)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Metro (Cobb-Douglas, Fulton, Clayton, Lawrenceville, DeKalb, LaGrange) Districts 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 4</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov">Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov</a> (256-293-9994) <a href="mailto:Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov">Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov</a> (678-357-4797)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central (Dublin, Macon, Augusta, &amp; Columbus) Districts 5-1, 5-2, 6, 7</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov">Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-967-0589) <a href="mailto:Karen.Williams13@dph.ga.gov">Karen.Williams13@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-596-1732)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest (Albany, Valdosta) Districts 8-1, 8-2</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov">Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-596-1940)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast (Savannah, Waycross) Districts 9-1, 9-2</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov">Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov</a> (804-514-8756)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backup/Nights/Weekends</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Joanna.Wagner@dph.ga.gov">Joanna.Wagner@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-430-6316)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You for Your Time!
Contact the AHS Patient Safety Team
Patientsafety@allianthealth.org

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Save the Date

SNF and Medical Directors Office Hours:
July 21, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET

ALF and PCH
July 28, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET
Thanks Again…

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia