Georgia Department of Public Health: GDPH ALF and PCH Office Hours
July 2023
Meet the Team

Presenters:

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

**Amy Ward, MS, BSN, RN, CIC, FAPIC**
Patient Safety Manager
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
Patient Safety Manager

Amy Ward, MS, BSN, RN, CIC, FAPIC

Amy is a registered nurse with a diverse background in acute care nursing, microbiology, epidemiology and infection control. She is passionate about leading and mentoring new and future infection preventionists in their career paths and assisting them in reducing healthcare-associated infections across the continuum of care.

Amy enjoys spending time with her family and being outdoors camping, bicycling and running.

Contact: Amy.Ward@AlliantHealth.org
Learning Objectives

• Learners will be able to understand COVID-19 data and use it to inform their IP practice.
• Learners will be able to utilize the APIC guide to long-term care as a reference for policies, procedures and the IP plan.
• Learners will utilize the resources provided regularly in their IP practice.
Although COVID-19 cases and associated hospitalizations have decreased in recent months, COVID-19 remains an ongoing public health challenge.

- **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>Hospitalizations (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>
<tr>
<td>May 10, 2023</td>
<td>Apr 15, 2023</td>
<td>Jan 6, 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<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 COVID-19 Data Tracker is updated daily with the latest COVID-19 data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Data includes hospitalizations, deaths, vaccinations, and more. For more information, visit [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home).
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-percent-change-county
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_percent-covid-deaths
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_percent-covid-ed
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_positivity-week
The blue bars show weekly COVID-19 hospital admissions. The orange line represents the weekly crude provisional death rate per 100,000, allowing for comparisons between areas with different population sizes but not adjusted for age distribution.

Wastewater Surveillance

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>3</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% to 19%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>N/A**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% to 39%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% to 59%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>- 38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% to 79%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>33%</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: 24
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
Infection Prevention Resource Box
Infection Prevention Resource Box

• Arriving to your facility from Georgia Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Career Pathway Initiative
Polling Question

• Have you received your resource box?
  – Yes
  – No
Infection Prevention Resource Box

Contents:
- USB drive with files
- APIC Infection Prevention Guide to Long-Term Care
- APIC Ready Reference for Microbes
- Glo Germ Kit
- Printed Signage
Jump Drive Contents

• Antibiotic Stewardship
• Cleaning and Disinfection
• Hand Hygiene
• Infection Control Signs and Education
• NHSN
• Outbreak Management
• Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
• Professional Assistance
• Refrigerator Maintenance
• Risk Assessment
Jump Drive – Antibiotic Stewardship

• Antibiotic Stewardship Document
  – List of references and resources helpful in the development and review of the antibiotic stewardship program
  – Clinical staff education resources, including new hire information
  – Free continuing education opportunities for clinicians
Jump Drive – Cleaning and Disinfection

- EPA Approved Disinfectants for Healthcare
- Environmental Services (EVS) - APIC Toolkit Resource
- EVS Cleaning
- Audit tool
- Housekeeping Checklist
- How to read a disinfectant label
- Infection prevention environmental rounds checklist
- STRIVE Environmental Services Training Module
- Water Management
  - CDC Water Management Toolkit
  - Guidance commissioning of water systems after prolonged shutdown or disruption of services
Jump Drive – Hand Hygiene

• Five Moments of HH Graphic
• GDPH Audit Log for HH
• Hand Hygiene Informational Resources
• WHO and CDC HH Resources
Jump Drive – Infection Control Precautions

- Ready to Print Signage
  - Contact
  - Contact Enteric
  - Droplet
  - Airborne Contact
  - Aerosol Contact
  - Enhanced Barrier
- Resident and Family Educational Flyers for each type of precautions
- LTCF Transmission Based Precautions and Recommendations in Healthcare Settings
  - Table of requirements according to the route of transmission
  - Supply cart stocking list example
Jump Drive

• NHSN
  – Resources
  – Revised McGeer Criteria Checklist

• Outbreak Management
  – Example Outbreak Management policy
  – Notifiable Diseases and Conditions
    • Print and hang at your desk for easy reference
Jump Drive – PPE

- PPE Audit Tool
- PPE Resources
- Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)
  - One-stop shop to create RPP documentation binder
- RPP Resources
  - OSHA Fit testing process and requirements
  - User seal check instructions
  - Video demonstrations
Jump Drive – Professional Assistance

• Contact information
  – APIC
  – Georgia DPH IP Team
  – Georgia Project Firstline
  – Georgia Infection Prevention Network (GIPN)
  – Long Term Care Certification (LTC-CIP)
Jump Drive – Refrigerator Maintenance

• Medication refrigerator and freezer temperature log
• Nourishment refrigerator and freezer temperature log
• Cleaning and monitoring of refrigerators, freezers, and ice machines example policy
Jump Drive – Risk Assessment

- Fillable Infection Prevention Risk Assessment with risk ranking for prioritization
APIC Guide to Long-Term Care

- Included in IP Resource Box that will be arriving at skilled nursing facilities throughout Georgia.
- Intended to aid in developing an evidence-based infection prevention and control program.
- Complete with sample policies, signage, audit tools and more.
Chapters

• Infection Prevention in Long Term Care
• Regulatory Compliance
• Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Reporting
• Antimicrobial Stewardship
• Standard and Transmission Based Precautions
• Medical Needs and Treatment Modalities
• Vaccinations
• Occupational Health
• Environmental Services
• Water Management Program
• Emergency and Disaster Preparedness
• Interdisciplinary and Support Services
• Appendix
Development of Policies and Procedures

• Policies should be based on current scientific evidence, best practice guidelines and expert consensus documents.
  – Utilize APIC Guide to LTC chapters and references in policy development.
• Policies and procedures (P&P) should be reviewed annually and revised as needed.
• Documentation must reflect the review process.
• Infection preventionist should review policies and procedures involving direct resident care, placement or manipulation of medical devices, etc.
Policies and Procedures

• Infection Prevention-owned policies
  – IP manual or individual policies
  – Infection prevention plan
  – Surveillance system to identify infectious and communicable diseases
  – Process for reporting incidents of communicable diseases
  – Employee health to include a process for restricting staff when necessary and respiratory protection program
  – Staff training in IP core practices
  – IP Practices such as hand hygiene

• IP should review policies owned by other departments to ensure evidence-based
  – Environmental cleaning and disinfection
  – Nursing care policies (catheter care, central line maintenance and infusion, etc.)
Infection Prevention Risk Assessment

- **Tools:**
  - CDC
  - Jump Drive

- **Completion of Risk Assessment**
  - Complete annually and when events or situations dictate
  - Multidisciplinary
    - Include: EVS, Maintenance/Facilities, DON, Administrator, therapy, medical director
  - Gather data to inform preparedness and likelihood
    - Surveillance data
    - Risk Events (flooding, safety events, outbreaks)
    - Policies and Procedures
    - Audit data
This quick reference guide is intended to provide straightforward information for IPs.

Quick Facts are available for common pathogens such as C. diff. and influenza.
Chapters

- Bacteria
- Common commensals
- Fungi
- Parasites
- Viruses
- Bioterrorism agents
- Antimicrobial therapies
Case Study – Using the Ready Reference For Microbes

• You receive a new laboratory report for Mr. Jones, a facility resident. He has a new urine culture that grew out >100k cfu/ml of Alcaligenes faecalis.

• You realize this is a bacteria you are unfamiliar with and would like to learn more.
Alcaligenes faecalis

- You review the index of Ready Reference for Microbes and find this bacteria on page 5.
Alcaligenes faecalis

- Gram-negative rod found in the environment (soil, water)
- Healthcare-associated infections include septicemia, bacteremia, ocular or ear infections, pancreatic abscesses, pneumonia and urinary tract infection (UTI)
- Modes of transmission
  - Environmental contact
  - Contaminated solutions or instruments
Actions to Take

• Isolation precautions?
  – Review the [2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions](#)

• Root cause analysis
  – Review for recent urological procedures or instrumentation
    • If recent hospitalization or urology visit, communicate findings with the provider or hospital IP
Glow Germ Kit

• Hand hygiene
• Aseptic technique
• Environmental surface cleaning
• Cross contamination
• Food preparation
Hand Hygiene Training

https://youtu.be/h-O279tiR3s
Environmental Cleaning Training with Glo Germ

- Apply a small amount of glo-germ powder or lotion to high-touch surface(s)
  - Ensure the surface is non-porous
- Use UV light to verify simulated germs are visible and note the areas of application
- Allow for staff to clean and disinfect the area as they normally would
- Use UV light to review areas where simulated germs were applied to visualize how effective the cleaning techniques were
Respiratory Protection Resource Box

• Contents
• 3M FT-30 Fit Test Apparatus
  – Hood with collar
  – Nebulizers and solutions
  – Laminated user instructions from the manufacturer
  – GDPH pocket guides with OSHA regulations

• N-95 Fit Testing
• Annual N-95 fit testing is still necessary despite the end of the public health emergency, so facilities are prepared to manage respiratory threats safely.
Use These Resources to Study for Your Certification

Certification options:

• A-IPC
• LTC-CIP
• CIC
• Learn more about the requirements for each [here](#)
Questions?
Alliant Health Solutions Resources


https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/infection-control/
Thank you!
Consult with the DPH Team! We are here to help!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Region/Districts</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North (Rome, Dalton, Gainesville, Athens)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville, DeKalb, LaGrange)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></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

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

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

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

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

SNF and Medical Directors Office Hours:
August 18, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET

ALF and PCH
August 25, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET
Thanks Again...

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia