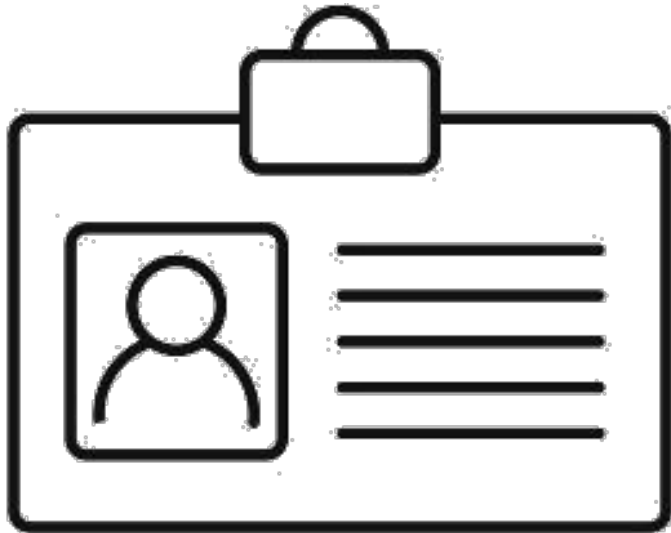




Georgia Department of Public Health:
GDPH Office Hours for SNFs & Medical Directors
October 20, 2023

Meet the Team



Presenters:

Swati Gaur, MD, MBA, CMD, AGSF

Medical Director
Alliant Health Solutions

Paula St. Hill, MPH, A-IPC

Infection Prevention Technical Advisor
Alliant Health Solutions

Swati Gaur, MD, MBA, CMD, AGSF

MEDICAL DIRECTOR, POST-ACUTE CARE NORTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM

Dr. Swati Gaur is the medical director of New Horizons Nursing Facilities with the Northeast Georgia Health System. She is also the CEO of Care Advances Through Technology, a technology innovation company. In addition, Dr. Gaur is on the electronic medical record (EMR) transition and implementation team for the health system, providing direction to EMR entity adaption to the long-term care (LTC) environment. She has also consulted with post-acute long-term care (PALTC) companies on optimizing medical services in PALTC facilities, integrating medical directors and clinicians into the QAPI framework, and creating frameworks of interdisciplinary work in the organization. Dr. Gaur established the palliative care service line at the Northeast Georgia Health System.



She also is an attending physician in several nursing facilities. Dr. Gaur attended medical school in Bhopal, India, and started her residency in internal medicine at St. Luke's–Roosevelt Medical Center in New York. She completed her fellowship in geriatrics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and is board-certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, hospice and palliative medicine. In addition, she earned a master's in business administration at the Georgia Institute of Technology with a concentration in technology management.

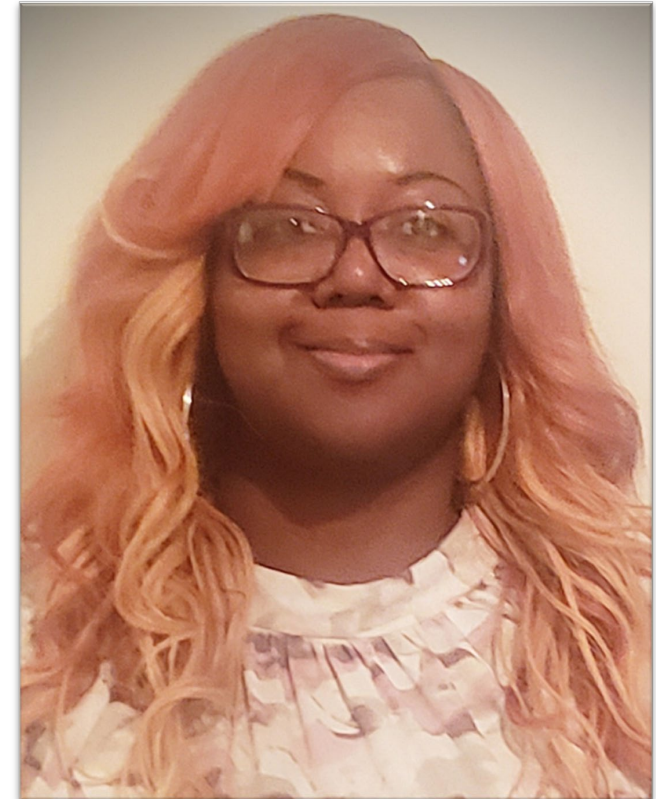
Paula St. Hill, MPH, A-IPC

INFECTION PREVENTION TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Paula is a doctoral student with a diverse background in public health, infection prevention, epidemiology, and microbiology. She has over 10 years of health care experience and enjoys public health and identifying ways to improve health outcomes, specifically those related to healthcare-associated infections.

Paula enjoys spending time with her friends and family.

Contact: Paula.StHill@allianthealth.org



Thank You to Our Partners

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

**Registration
is now OPEN!**



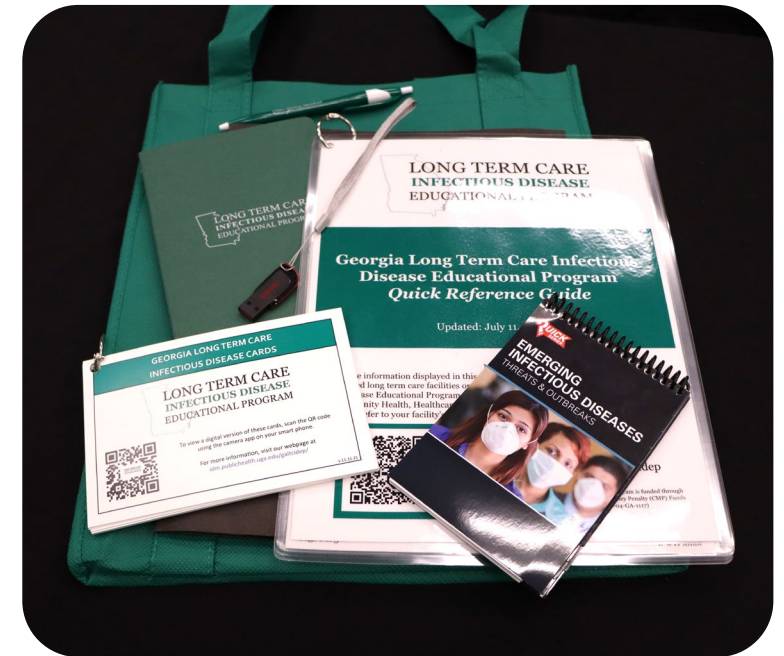
Institute for Disaster Management
College of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



**LONG TERM CARE
INFECTIOUS DISEASE
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

Educational Course Overview

- Two educational courses:
 - One-day, in-person courses
 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - Open to all nursing home staff, clinical and non-clinical
 - Locations based on Healthcare Coalitions
 - Participant resources



Educational Course Topics

- **Foundations Course:**
 - Public health trends
 - Chain of infection & transmission routes
 - Common infectious diseases
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE) donning and doffing
 - Integration with community partners
- **Principles Course:**
 - Regulatory updates
 - Infectious disease precautions
 - PPE selection activity
 - Disinfection techniques
 - Interactive disinfection unit session
 - Integration with community partners



GEORGIA LONG TERM CARE INFECTIOUS DISEASE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



YEAR 3 COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	COURSE	REGION	LOCATION	REGISTER
SEPT 21, 2023 (THURS)	FOUNDATIONS	A	DALTON CONVENTION CENTER 2211 TONY INGLE PARKWAY, DALTON, GA 30720	HERE
SEPT 22, 2023 (FRI)	PRINCIPLES	C	CLARENCE BROWN CONFERENCE CENTER 5450 HIGHWAY 20, CARTERSVILLE, GA 30121	HERE
SEPT 28, 2023 (THURS)	PRINCIPLES	B	RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER AT LANIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE 2535 LANIER TECH DRIVE, GAINESVILLE, GA 30507	HERE
OCT 13, 2023 (FRI)	FOUNDATIONS	G	THE SNELLING CENTER 3165 WASHINGTON RD, AUGUSTA, GA 30907	HERE
OCT 27, 2023 (FRI)	PRINCIPLES	E	THE GRADUATE ATHENS 295 E DOUGHERTY ST, ATHENS, GA 30601	HERE
DEC 7, 2023 (THURS)	FOUNDATIONS	I	CUNNINGHAM CENTER 3100 GENTIAN BLVD, COLUMBUS, GA 31907	HERE
DEC 8, 2023 (FRI)	PRINCIPLES	K	CREEKSIDE CENTER 105 CHEAW PARK RD, ALBANY, GA 31701	HERE
FEB 22, 2024 (THURS)	FOUNDATIONS	L	UGA TIFTON CONFERENCE CENTER 15 RDC ROAD, TIFTON, GA 31794	HERE
FEB 23, 2024 (FRI)	FOUNDATIONS	F	HATCHER CONFERENCE CENTER 100 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, MACON, GEORGIA 31206	HERE
MARCH 7, 2024 (THURS)	FOUNDATIONS	N	KSU CENTER 3333 BUSBEE DRIVE, KENNESAW, GA 30144	HERE
MARCH 8, 2024 (FRI)	PRINCIPLES	D	COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT DECATUR DOWNTOWN 130 CLAIREMONT AVE, DECATUR, GA 30030	HERE
MARCH 22, 2024 (FRI)	FOUNDATIONS	J	ARMSTRONG CENTER 13040 ABERCORN STREET, SAVANNAH, GA 31419	HERE
APRIL 4, 2024 (THURS)	FOUNDATIONS	B	RAMSEY CONFERENCE CENTER AT LANIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE 2535 LANIER TECH DRIVE, GAINESVILLE, GA 30507	HERE
APRIL 11, 2024 (THURS)	PRINCIPLES	M	COASTAL PINES TECHNICAL COLLEGE 1701 CARSWELL AVENUE, WAYCROSS, GA 31503	HERE
APRIL 12, 2024 (FRI)	PRINCIPLES	H	OFTC DUBOSE PORTER TRAINING CENTER 560 PINEHILL ROAD, DUBLIN, GA 31021	HERE

LONG TERM CARE
INFECTIOUS DISEASE
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

✉ GeorgialD@uga.edu

🌐 idm.publichealth.uga.edu/galtciderp

☎ 706.542.4798



Infection Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

Courses are open to **all**
nursing home staff positions,
clinical and non-clinical.



Questions?

georgiaid@uga.edu

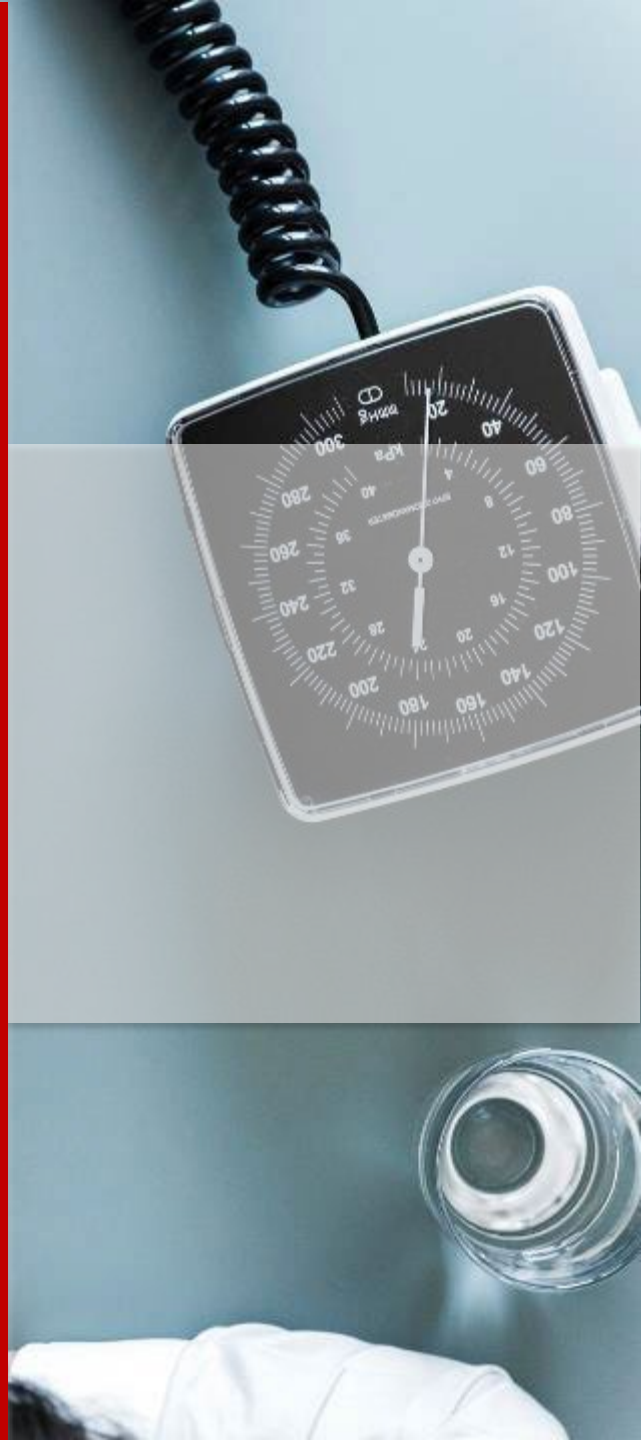
idm.publichealth.uga.edu/galtcidep

Learning Objectives

- Learners will be updated on COVID-19 epidemiology and infection prevention interventions
- Learners will be able to understand IPC best practices as it relates to social gatherings and food safety



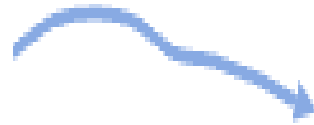
COVID-19 Update



CDC COVID-19 Data Trends

Trend in %
Emergency
Department
Visits

-17.7% in most recent week



Trend in Hospital
Admissions

-8.2% in most recent week



Total Hospitalizations

6,405,961

Trend in %
COVID-19
Deaths

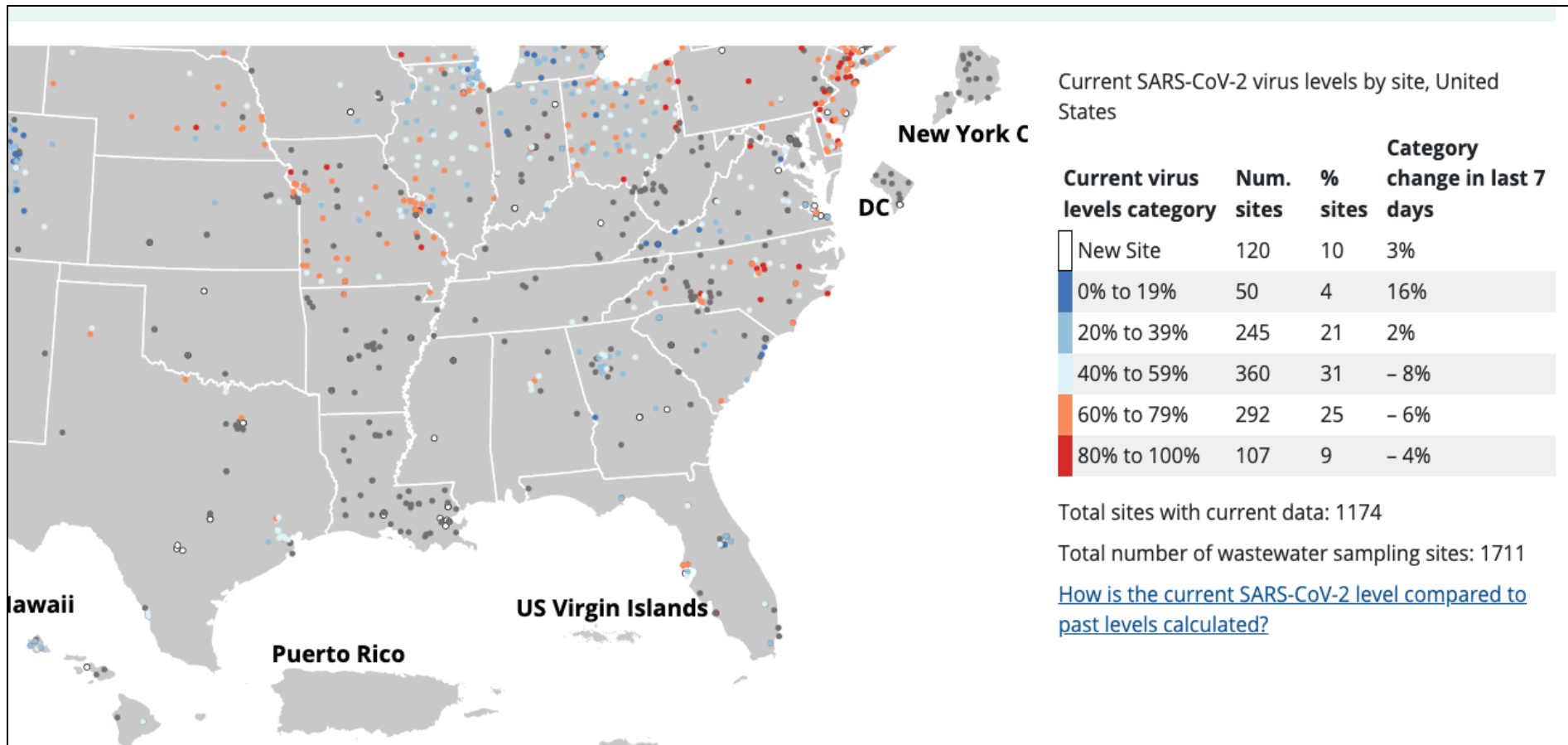
-3.8% in most recent week



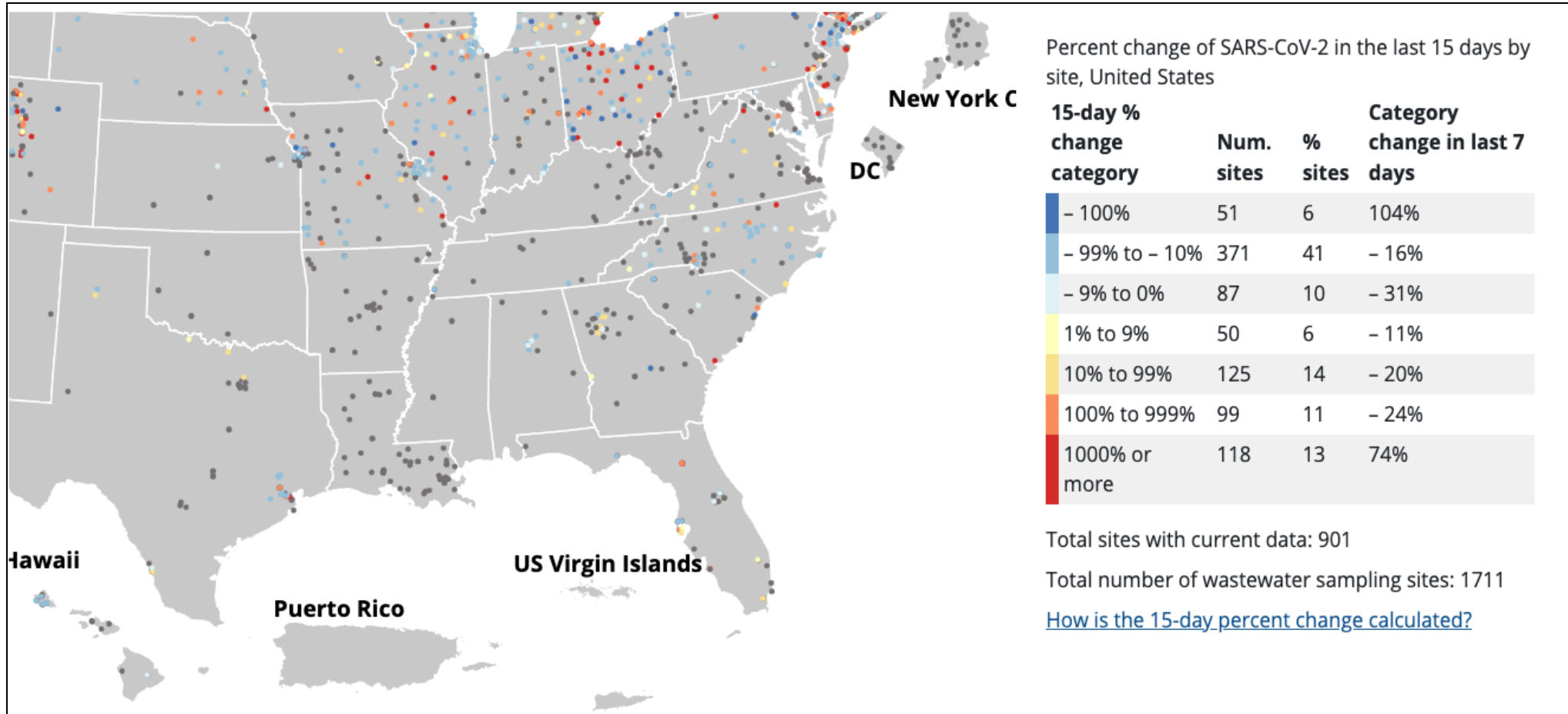
Total Deaths

1,147,253

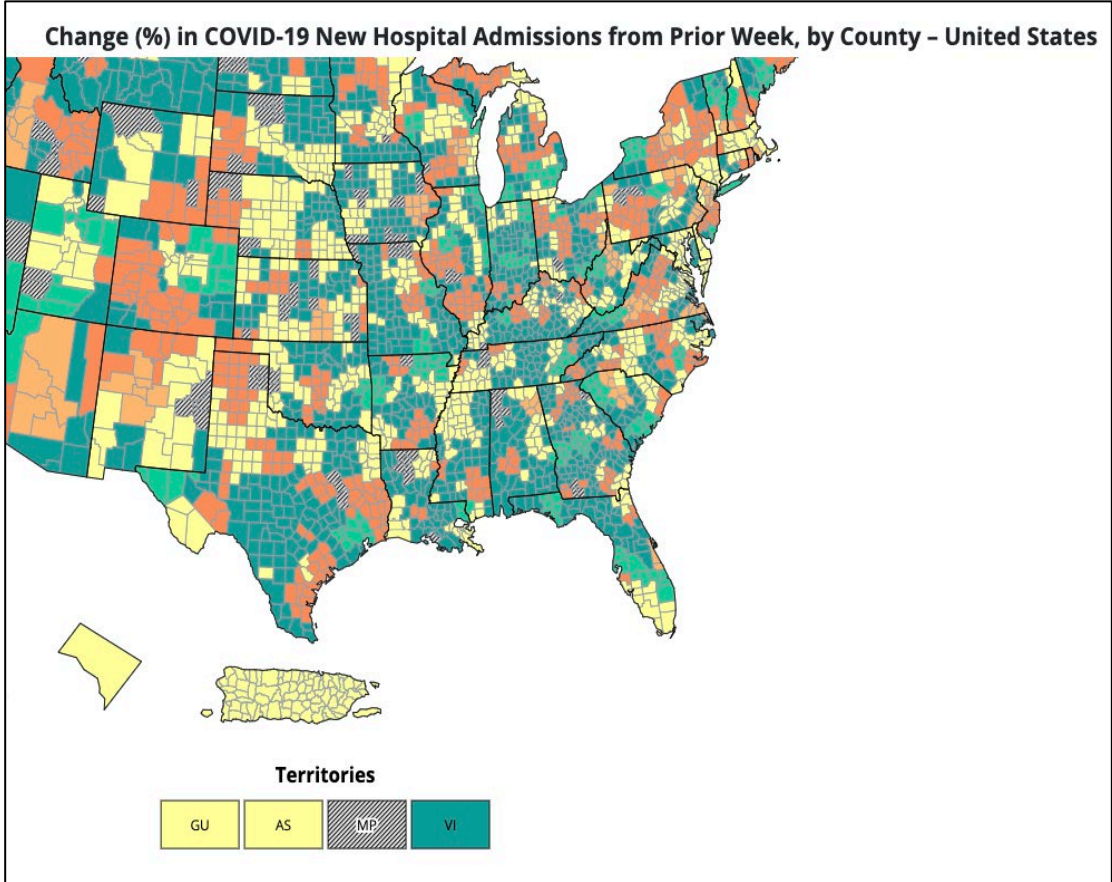
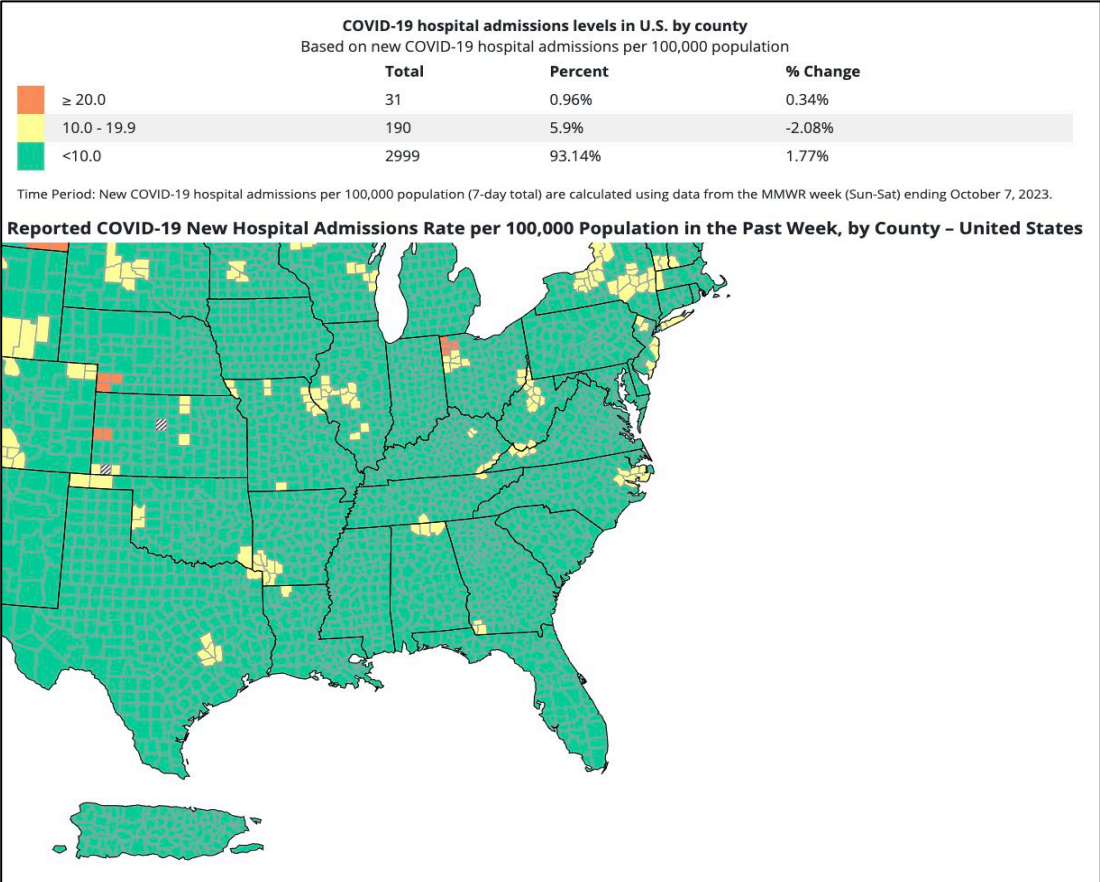
Wastewater Surveillance



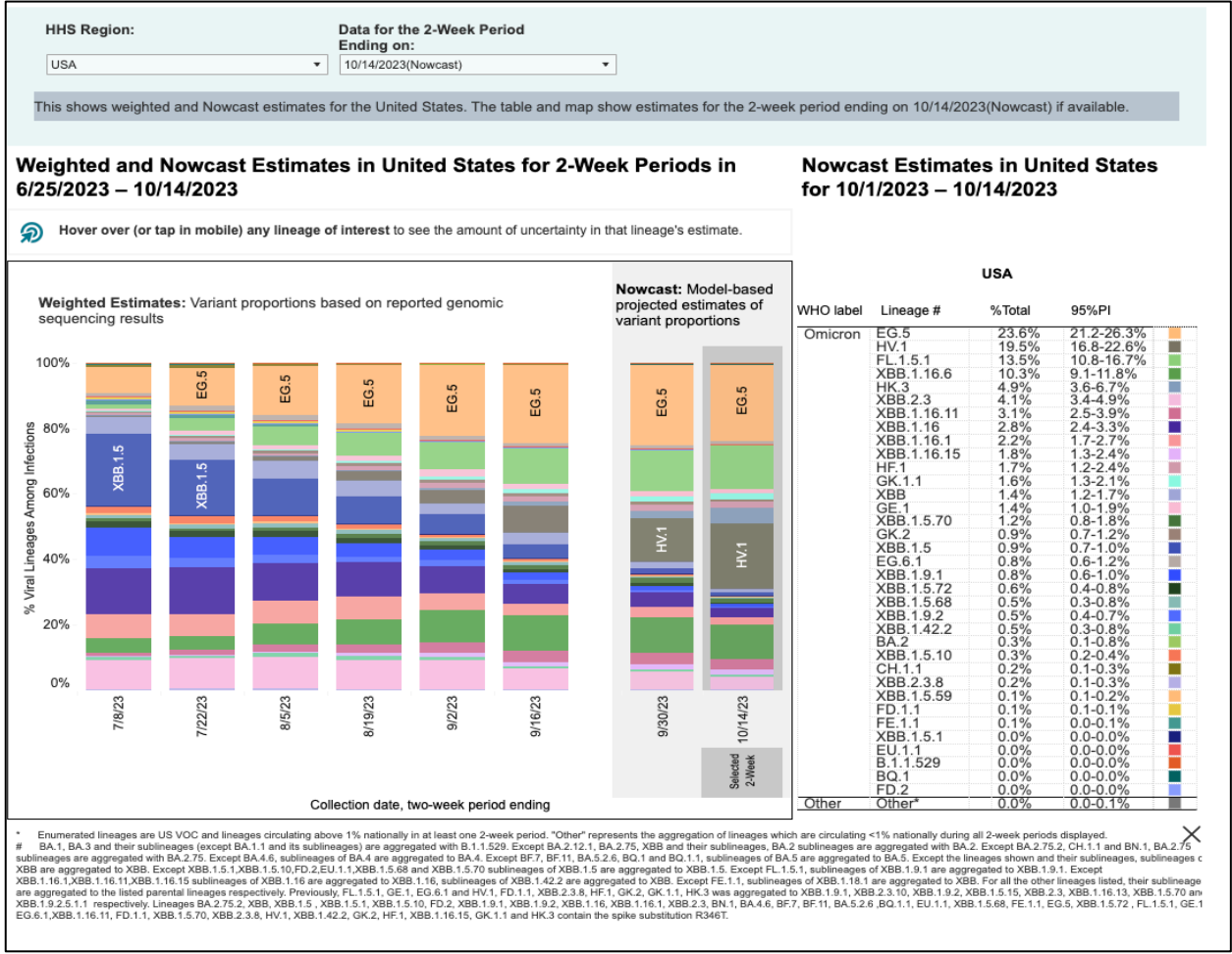
Wastewater Change



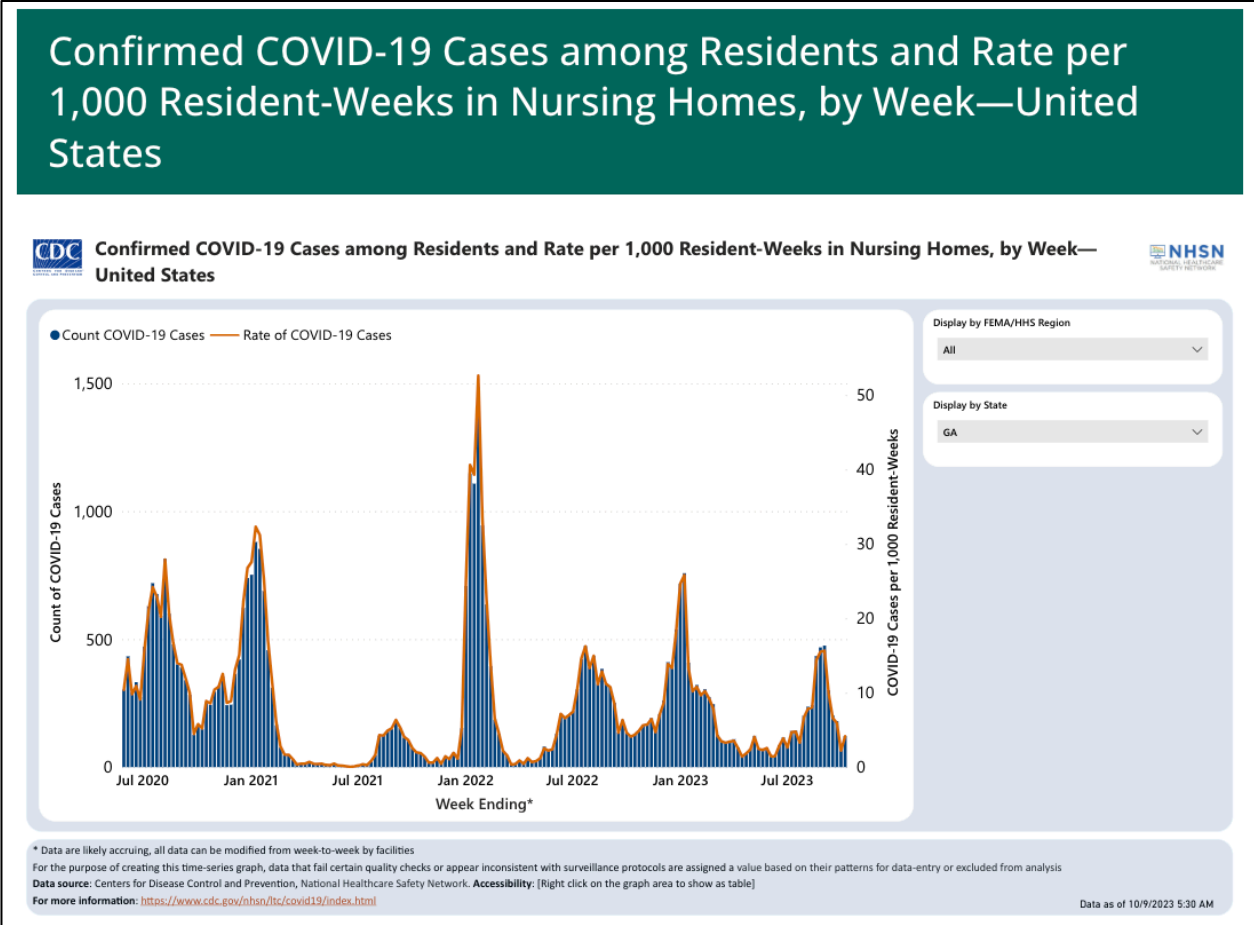
COVID-19 Hospitalizations



Variant Distribution for COVID-19



COVID-19 Cases in Nursing Home Residents

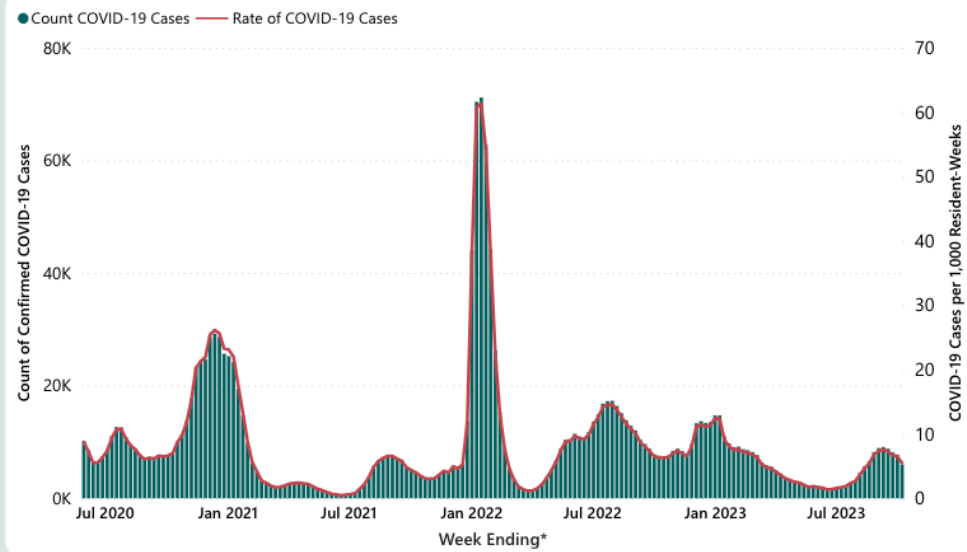


COVID-19 Cases in Nursing Home Staff

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases among Staff and Rate per 1,000 Resident-Weeks in Nursing Homes, by Week—United States



Confirmed COVID-19 Cases among Staff and Rate per 1,000 Resident-Weeks in Nursing Homes, by Week — United States



Display by FEMA/HHS Region

All

Display by State

All

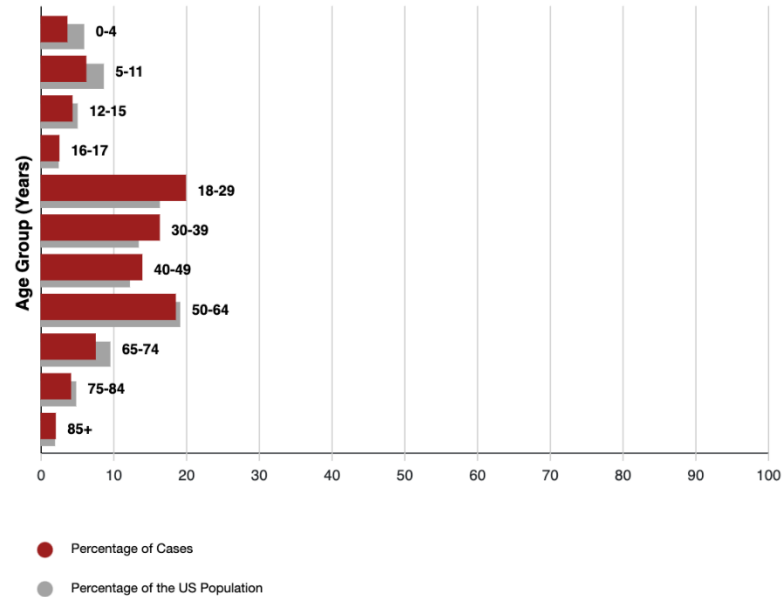
* Data are likely accruing, all data can be modified from week-to-week by facilities
 For the purpose of creating this time-series graph, data that fail certain quality checks or appear inconsistent with surveillance protocols are assigned a value based on their patterns for data-entry or excluded from analysis
 Data source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Healthcare Safety Network. Accessibility: [Right click on the graph area to show as table]
 For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/htc/covid19/index.html>

Data as of 10/9/2023 5:30 AM

COVID-19 Cases vs. Deaths

Cases by Age Group:

Data from 102,043,171 cases. Age group was available for 101,015,667 (98%) cases.

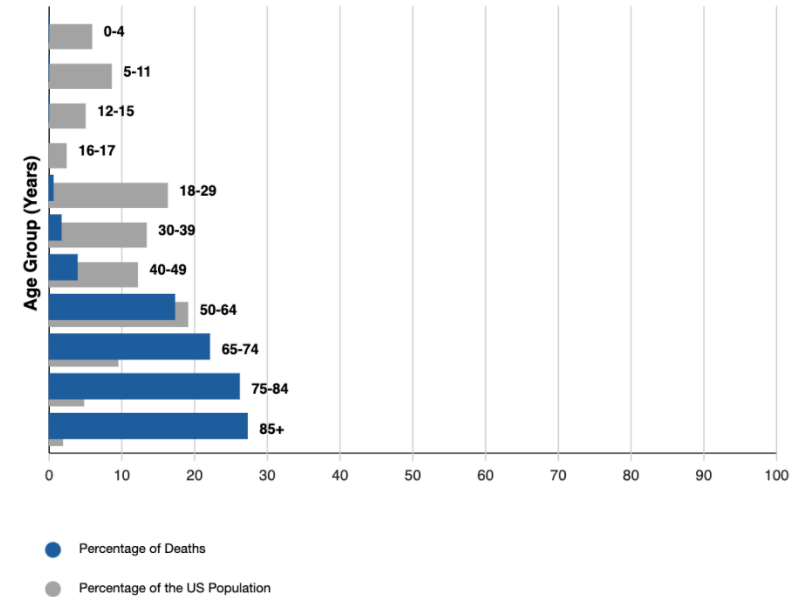


Show Percentage of the US Population that is in this demographic category

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID Data Tracker. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2023. October 16. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker>

Deaths by Age Group:

Data from 1,002,986 deaths. Age group was available for 1,002,132 (99%) deaths.



Show Percentage of the US Population that is in this demographic category

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID Data Tracker. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2023. October 16. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker>

COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendation 2023-2024

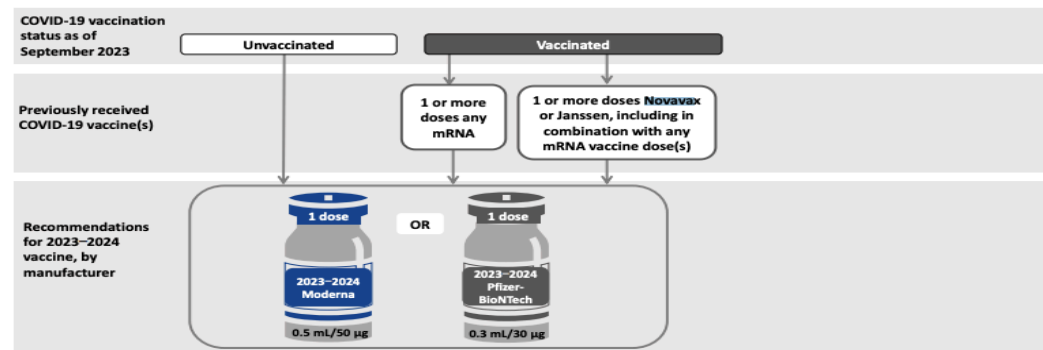
Doses recommended:

- **1 dose of 2023–2024 COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of prior vaccination history**

Novavax:

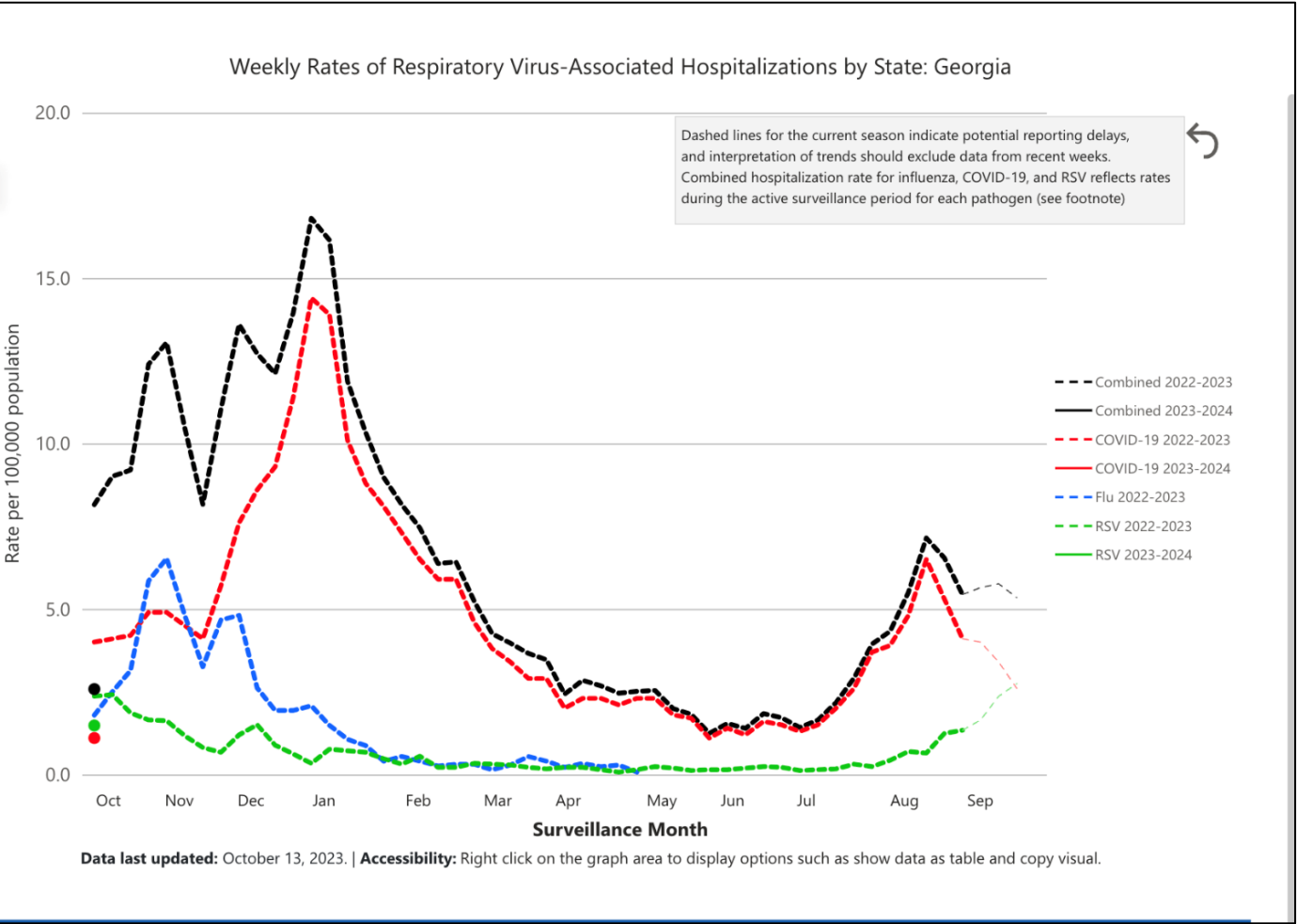
- Ages 12 years and older
- Previously completed primary vaccination using any FDA-approved or FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine
- Unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA vaccine and would otherwise not receive a booster dose
- Administered at least six months after completion of any primary series.
- 2023-24 vax was authorized by the FDA on Oct. 3, 2023
- [Take 5 Video: COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendation for the New Season 2023-2024 for Patients](#)
- [Take 5 Video: COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendation for the New Season 2023-2024 for Providers](#)

Recommended 2023–2024 COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for people who are NOT immunocompromised, aged ≥12 years*



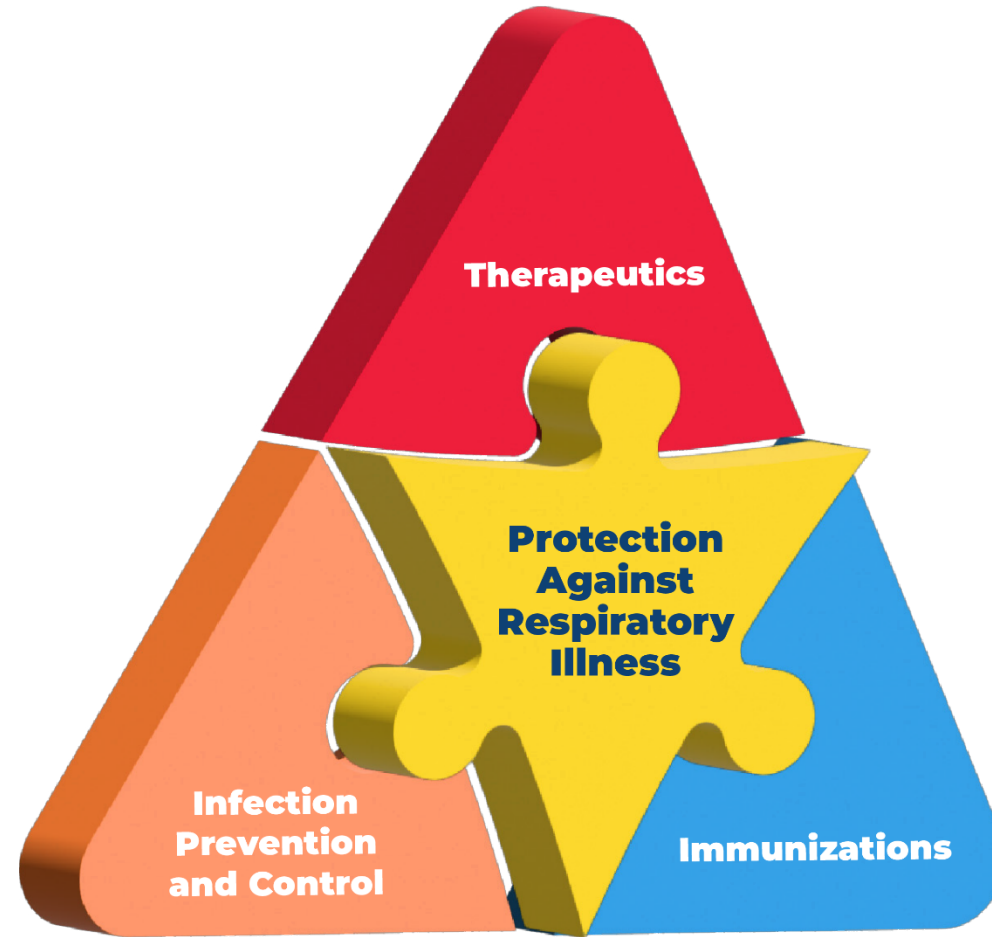
*For information about administration intervals, see Table 1 in the Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 vaccines.

Combined Surveillance - GA



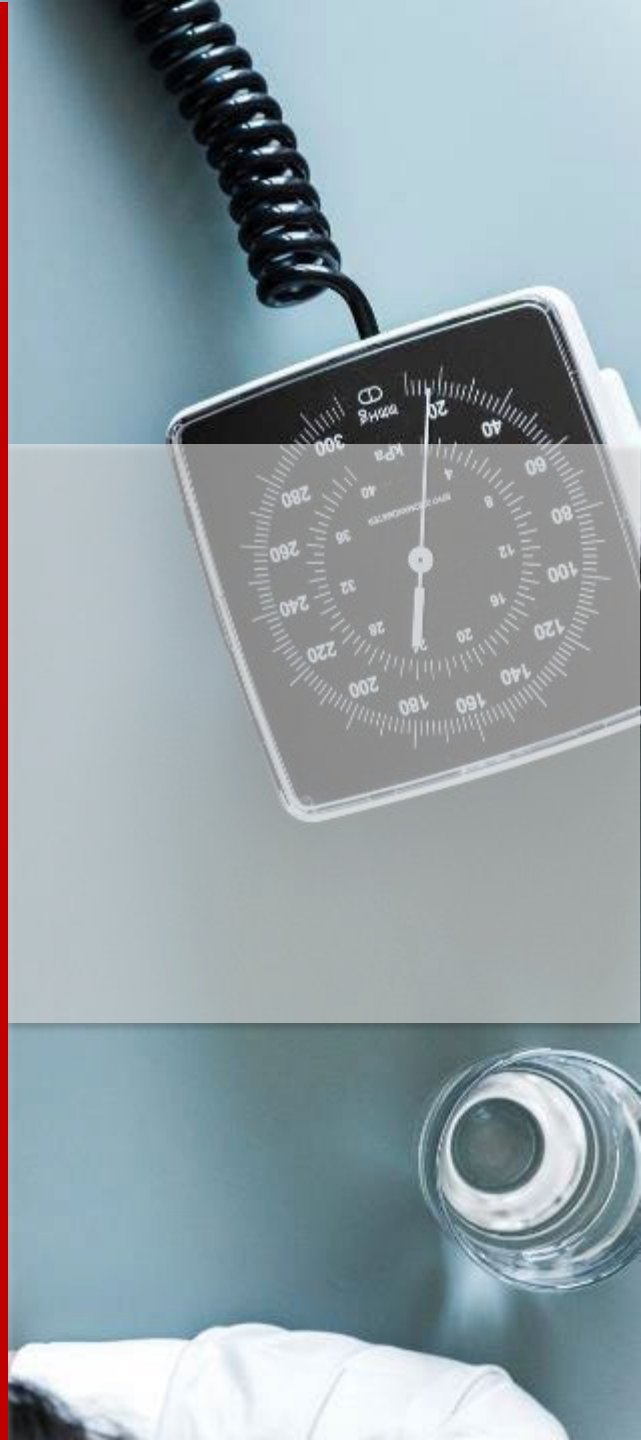
<https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/resp-net/dashboard.html>

Safety Strategy





IPC Best Practices for Gatherings During the Holiday Season and Food Safety

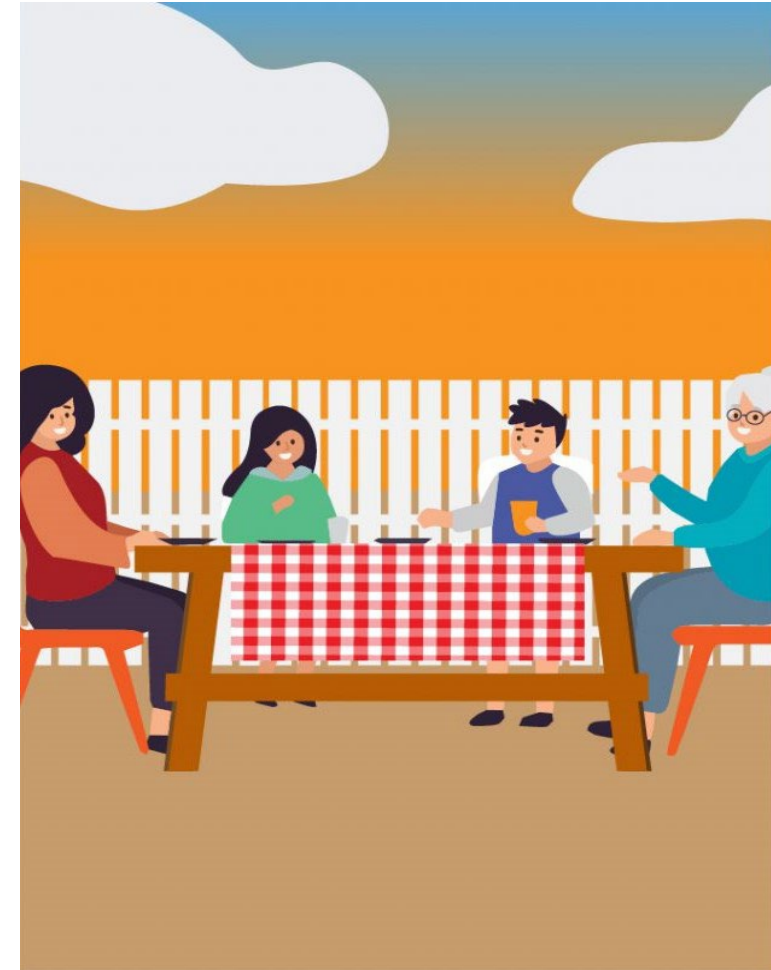


The COVID-19 PHE Is Over. Now What?

- Nursing homes have been severely impacted by COVID-19, with outbreaks causing high rates of infection, morbidity and mortality
- Now that the COVID-19 PHE is over, facilities should continue to remain vigilant to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses

Small Gatherings

Small gatherings are informal and typically include family and friends you regularly socialize with. They can be indoor or outdoor. These social gatherings are more intimate, such as small holiday parties, family dinners and special celebrations.



Visitation

- For the safety of the visitor(s), residents should be encouraged to limit in-person visits while they are infectious.
 - Encourage alternative mechanisms for patient and visitor interactions, such as video-call applications on cell phones or tablets, when appropriate.
- Facilities should provide instructions before visitors enter the resident's room on hand hygiene, limiting surfaces touched, and use of PPE according to current facility policy.
- Per CMS, facilities must allow indoor visitation for all residents as permitted under the regulations. While previously acceptable during the COVID-19 PHE, facilities can no longer limit the frequency and length of visits, the number of visitors, or require advance scheduling of visits.
- Although there is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time, visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents.

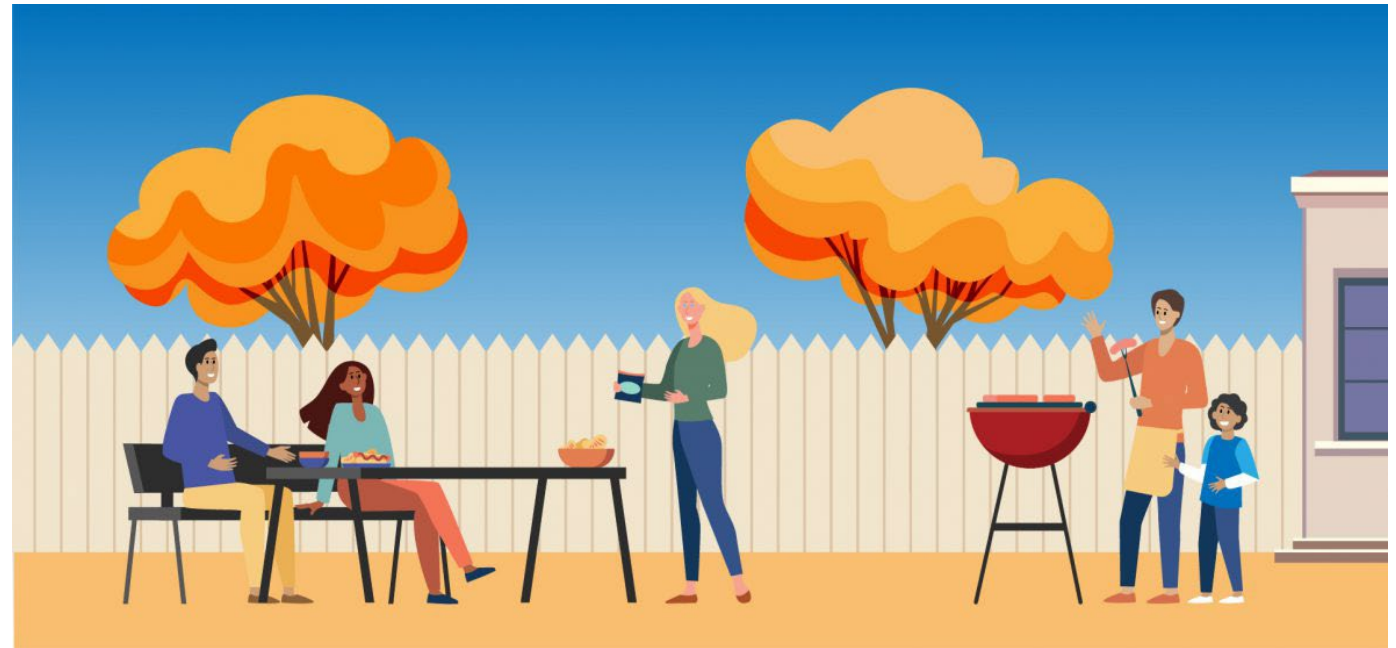
¹ <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/gso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Flong-term-care.html

Outdoor Visitation

Outdoor visits generally pose a lower risk of transmission due to increased space and airflow.

For outdoor visits, facilities should create accessible and safe outdoor spaces for visitation, such as courtyards, patios or parking lots. Include the use of tents if available.



Indoor Visitation

- Indoor visits may increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses due to decreased space and airflow.
- For indoor visits, facilities should maintain healthy environments.



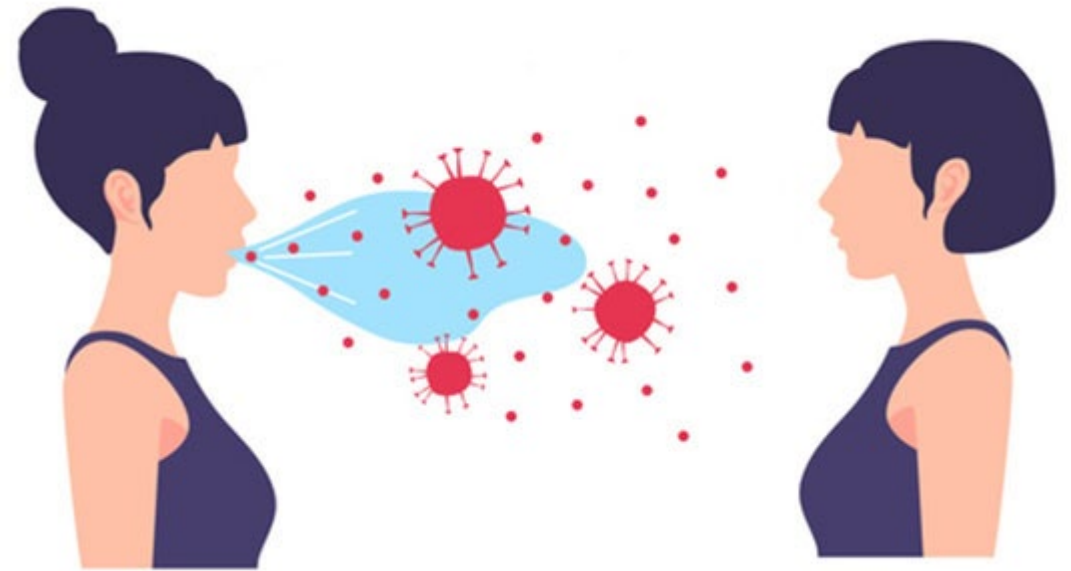
Improve Ventilation

- Improving ventilation (moving air into, out of or within a room) and filtration (trapping particles on a filter to remove them from the air) can help prevent virus particles from accumulating in indoor air.
- Improving ventilation and filtration can help protect residents and others from becoming infected with COVID-19 and other illnesses.



Increase Space and Distance

- Small particles that people breathe out can contain virus particles
- The closer people are together, the increased risk of transmission of viruses
- To avoid possible exposures, increase space and distance among residents and visitors



Implement Source Control Using CDC COVID-19 Data and RESP-NET Surveillance

- Source control refers to using respirators, well-fitting facemasks or cloth masks to cover a person's mouth and nose to prevent the spread of respiratory secretions when they are breathing, talking, sneezing or coughing
- CDC's COVID-19 hospital admission levels provide information about the amount of severe illness in your community to help you decide when to take action to protect yourself and others
- The Respiratory Virus Hospitalization Surveillance Network (RESP-NET) comprises three networks that conduct population-based surveillance for laboratory-confirmed hospitalizations associated with COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza among children and adults



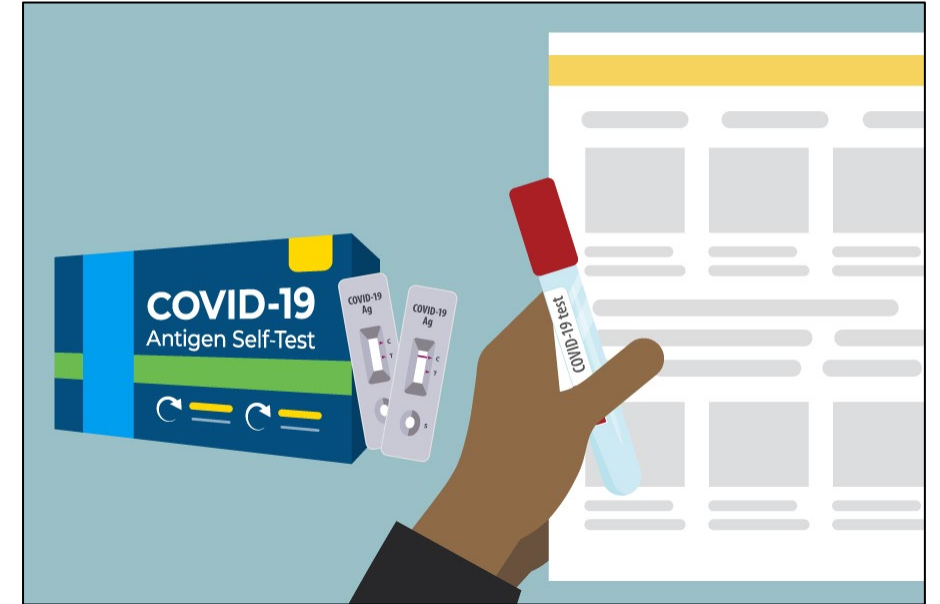
Stay Up-To-Date With Vaccines

- The CDC recommends that everyone aged 5 years and older should receive one dose of an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness from COVID-19
- Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications
- New RSV vaccines are available for adults 60 and older. The CDC recommends that adults 60 and older may receive a single dose of the RSV vaccine using shared clinical decision-making



Encourage Testing for COVID-19

- Anyone with even mild symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should receive a viral test for SARS-CoV-2 as soon as possible
- Asymptomatic residents with close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection should have a series of three viral tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection
 - Testing is recommended immediately (but not before 24 hours after the exposure).
 - If negative, test again 48 hours after the first negative test. If negative again, test 48 hours after the second negative test.
 - This will typically be on Day 1 (where day of exposure is Day 0), Day 3, and Day 5



Post Visual Alerts

- Continue to post visual alerts (e.g., signs, posters) at the entrance and in strategic places (e.g., waiting areas, elevators, cafeterias)
- These alerts should include instructions about current IPC recommendations (e.g. when to use source control and perform hand hygiene)

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



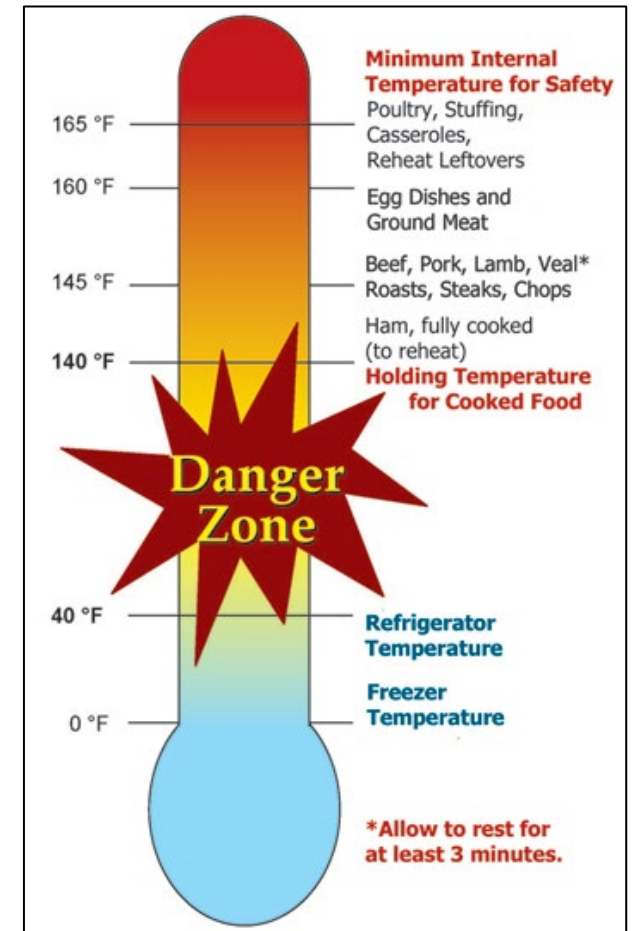
Food Safety for the Holidays

- Keep foods separated, such as meat, chicken, turkey, seafood and eggs from all other foods that won't be cooked before eating, such as fruit, salad greens, deli salads
- Prevent juices from meat, chicken, turkey, and seafood from dripping or leaking onto other foods by keeping them in containers or sealed plastic bags.
- Cook food thoroughly using a food thermometer to ensure meat, chicken, turkey, seafood, and eggs have been cooked to a safe internal temperature to kill germs
- Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils and countertops with hot, soapy water or in the dishwasher after preparing each food item
- Avoid contamination by providing utensils (e.g., spoons, forks, tongs, etc.) for each food item so people do not touch the food with bare hands



Keep Food out of the “Danger Zone”

- Leaving food out too long at room temperature can cause bacteria (such as Staphylococcus aureus, Salmonella Enteritidis, Escherichia coli O157:H7, and Campylobacter) to grow to dangerous levels that can cause illness.
- Bacteria grow most rapidly in the range of temperatures between 40 °F and 140 °F, doubling in number in as little as 20 minutes. This range of temperatures is called the “Danger Zone.”
- Never leave food out of refrigeration for over two hours (if the temperature is above 90 °F, food should not be left out for more than 1 hour).
- Keep hot food hot at or above 140 °F and place cooked food in chafing dishes, preheated steam tables, warming trays, and/or slow cookers.
- Keep cold food cold at or below 40 °F and place food in containers on ice.



Perform Routine Cleaning and Monitoring of Microwaves, Refrigerators and Ice Machines

- Microorganisms may be present in microwaves, refrigerators, ice, ice-storage chests and ice-making machines
- Ensure that refrigerators designated for specific use (i.e., resident food, staff food, medications, and specimens) will be clearly labeled as such
- Store all refrigerated or frozen foods in covered containers or completely sealed
- Resident and staff refrigerators should be cleaned at least weekly and as needed
- All resident food and beverages should be dated and discarded after an appropriate time interval, such as 48 hours after opening

Don't Forget Hand Hygiene!

Handwashing is especially important during key times when germs can spread easily. These include:

- Before, during and after preparing any food
- After handling uncooked meat, chicken or other poultry, seafood, flour, or eggs
- Before and after using gloves to prevent germs from spreading to your food and your hands
- Before eating
- After touching garbage
- After wiping counters or cleaning other surfaces with chemicals
- After coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose



Infection Control Actions to Take During Respiratory Virus Season

- Check that the air handling in your facility is functioning as it should
- Consider broad source control in health care facilities during respiratory virus season
- Use data for local decisions
- Help everyone practice respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Promote hand hygiene with everyone in the facility
- Practice regular environmental cleaning

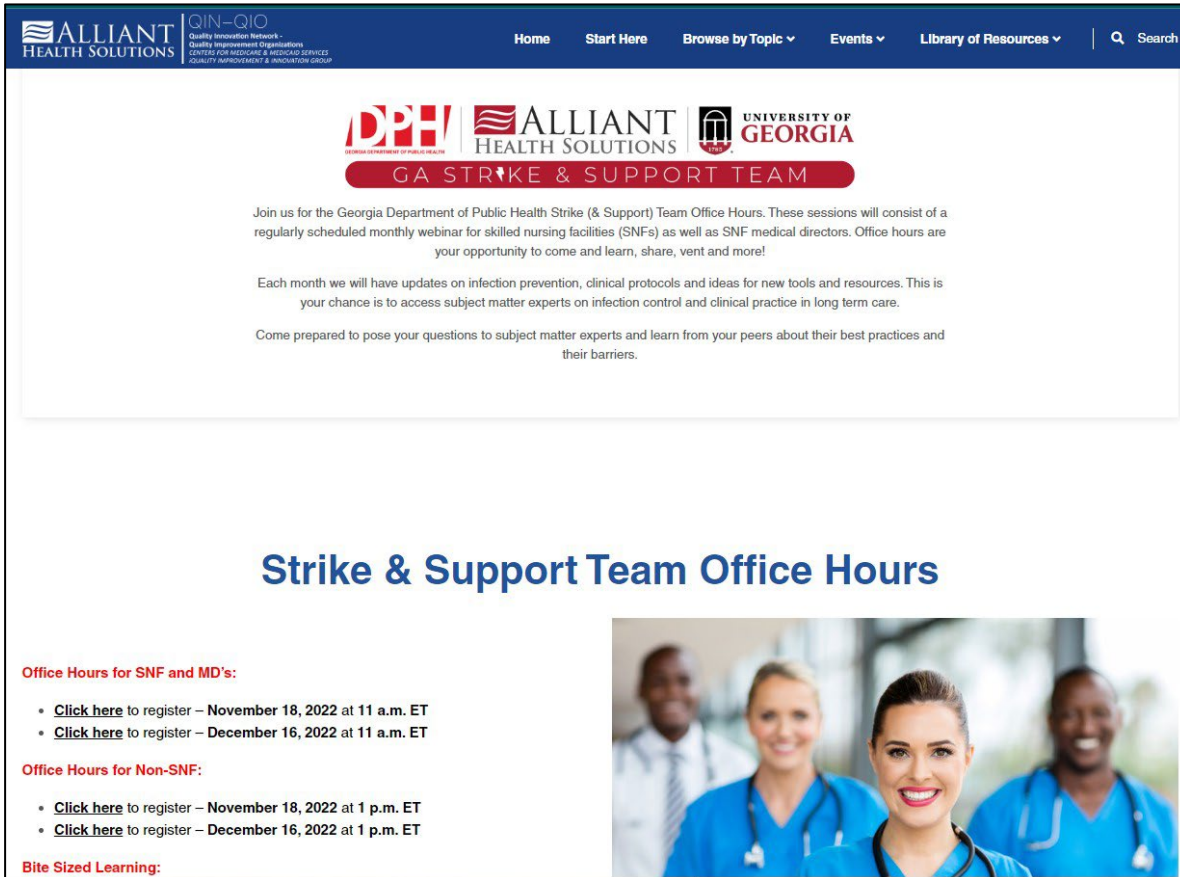
Resources

- [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
- [CDC Handwashing: A Healthy Habit in the Kitchen](#)
- [CDC Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)

Questions?



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 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 Quikc 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/>

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



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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

Thank you!

Consult with the DPH Team! We are here to help!

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)

Save the Date

SNF and Medical Directors Office Hours:

November 17, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET

ALF and PCH Office Hours:

October 27, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET

November 17, 2023 | 1 p.m. ET



Thanks Again...

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



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