Georgia Department of Public Health:
GDPH Office Hours for ALF and PCH
November 17, 2023
Meet the Team

Presenters:

Shirley Rodrigues, M.Ed., B.S.N., R. P. N
Program Director
Personal Care Home Program
GA Department of Community Health

Erica Umeakunne, MSN, MPH, APRN, CIC
Infection Prevention Specialist
Alliant Health Solutions
Thank You to Our Partners

• Georgia Department of Public Health
• University of Georgia
Objectives

• Provide updates on COVID-19 epidemiology and associated indicators

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

• Discuss assisted living facility and personal care home infection control regulations

• Share resources to support COVID-19 IPC activities

• Address any facility-specific IPC questions or concerns
COVID-19 Update
COVID-19 Update for the United States

**Early Indicators**
- **Test Positivity**
  - % Test Positivity: 9.0% (October 22 to October 28, 2023)
  - Trend in % Test Positivity: No change in most recent week
- **Emergency Department Visits**
  - % Diagnosed as COVID-19: 1.2% (October 22 to October 28, 2023)
  - Trend in % Emergency Department Visits: -5.3% in most recent week

**Severity Indicators**
- **Hospitalizations**
  - Hospital Admissions: 15,745 (October 22 to October 28, 2023)
  - Trend in Hospital Admissions: +0.1% in most recent week
- **Deaths**
  - % of All Deaths in U.S. Due to COVID-19: 2.5% (October 22 to October 28, 2023)
  - Trend in % COVID-19 Deaths: No change in most recent week

These early indicators represent a portion of national COVID-19 tests and emergency department visits. Wastewater information also provides early indicators of spread.

CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home
COVID-19 hospital admissions levels in U.S. by county
Based on new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 20.0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0 - 19.9</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>8.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;10.0</td>
<td>2928</td>
<td>90.83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time Period: New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) are calculated using data from the NREVSS week (Sun-Sat) ending October 22, 2023.

Reported COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions Rate per 100,000 Population in the Past Week, by County – United States

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

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-rate-county
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-percent-change-county
Wastewater Surveillance

Current SARS-CoV-2 virus levels by site, United States

<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>131</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% to 19%</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>- 7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% to 39%</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>- 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% to 59%</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>- 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% to 79%</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>- 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% to 100%</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>- 17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total sites with current data: 1257
Total number of wastewater sampling sites: 1742

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

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance
SARS-CoV-2 Variant Surveillance

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

https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/resp-net/dashboard.html
Safety Strategy
DCH Mission

**ACCESS**

Access to affordable, quality health care in our communities

**RESPONSIBLE**

Responsible health planning and use of health care resources

**HEALTHY**

Healthy behaviors and improved health outcomes
ALC and PCH
INFECTION CONTROL REGULATIONS
INITIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS
2) **Initial Training for All Staff.** The administrator or on-site manager must ensure that any person working in the assisted living community as staff receives training within the first 60 days of employment on the following:

(b) General infection control principles including the importance of hand hygiene in all settings and attendance policies when ill.
(2) The administrator or on-site manager must be responsible for ensuring that any person working in the home as an employee, under contract or otherwise, receives work-related training within the first sixty days of employment. Such training must include, at a minimum, the following:

(g) General infection control principles, including the importance of hand hygiene in all settings and attendance policies when ill.
6) **Staff Training Requirements.** The home shall ensure that all staff are properly trained initially and on an annual basis to provide safe, quality care to residents in the memory care center. Effective July 1, 2021, the memory care center shall meet the following training requirements:

(D) General infection control principles
INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM
(1) The assisted living community must have an effective infection control program, which includes, at a minimum, the following:

(a) Training provided to staff on effective measures for minimizing the spread of infections and food-borne illnesses

(b) Responding to disease outbreaks appropriately and participating in infection control investigations
Rule 111-8-63-.23 Infection Control, Sanitation and Supplies
TAG # 2302

Rule 111-8-63-.23 Infection Control, Sanitation and Supplies
(c) Staff demonstrating their understanding and use of proper infection control practices in their delivery of care to the residents
(d) Enforcing work and return to work policies to minimize the spread of infection and illnesses
(e) Implementing the additional infection control requirements set forth in the Rules and Regulations for Disaster Preparedness Plans, Chapter 111-8-16, regarding pandemic plans, supplies and policies and procedures
111-8-62-.23 Infection Control, Sanitation and Supplies

(4) The home must have an effective infection control program which includes at least the following:

(a) Training provided to staff on effective measures for minimizing the spread of infections and food-borne illnesses

(b) Responding to disease outbreaks appropriately and participating in infection control investigations

(c) Staff demonstrating their understanding and use of proper infection control practices in their delivery of care to the residents
111-8-62-.23 Infection Control, Sanitation and Supplies

(4) The home must have an effective infection control program which includes at least the following:

(d) Enforcing work and return to work policies to minimize the spread of infection and illnesses

(f) Providing notices as recommended by public health regarding outbreaks and infestation issues to residents, staff and any visitors. Homes licensed for 25 or more beds must meet the notification requirements of the Rules and Regulations for Disaster Preparedness Plans, Chapter 111-8-16
(5) The home must have an adequate supply of sanitizing and cleaning agents, (e.g., effective hand hygiene products, hand soap, laundry soap, household disinfectants and other cleaning Materials) properly stored to prevent accidental ingestion but available for and properly used in the home to minimize the spread of infections.
111-8-16-.05 Special Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities

Maintain a minimum of a seven-day supply of protective masks, surgical gowns, eye protection and gloves sufficient to protect residents and staff based on CDC guidance and with consideration given to any widespread supply shortages documented by the facility or known to the department.
111-8-16-.05 Special Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities

Maintain and publish for residents and their representatives or legal surrogates' policies and procedures pertaining to infection control and mitigation within their facilities and update such policies and procedures annually.
Questions?
Alliant Health Solutions Resources

[Image of Alliant Health Solutions Resource webpage]

- Strike & Support Team Office Hours
  - Office Hours for SNF and MD:
    - 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

- Infection Control Resources

  - **Septic**
    - CDC’s Nurses’ Gap Assessment and Action Steps
    - CDC’s Nurses’ Guide to Infections

  - **Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)**
    - CAUTI Gap Assessment Tool
    - Urinary Catheter Quick Observation Tool
    - CDC-ICNAP Guidelines for Prevention of CAUTI 2019
    - AHRQ Toolkit for Reducing CAUTI in Hospitals
    - CDC TAP-CAUTI Implementation Guide

  - **Hand Hygiene**
    - Handwash the FRGQ Way – Spanish
    - Handwash the FRGQ Way – English
    - Handwash the FRGQ Way – Spanish
    - Frequent Handwashing Questions – Alcohol Based Hand Rub

- **NHNC**
  - Antibiotic Stewardship Resources
    - A Field Guide to Antibiotic Stewardship in Outpatient Settings
    - Prescriber Commitment Letter
    - Informed Consent
    - Taking Your Antibiotics

- **COVID-19**
  - Infection Control Resources for CMS COVID-19 Vocational
  - Infection Control and Prevention for Staff
  - Infection Control and Prevention for Visitors
  - Infection Control and Prevention for Visitors


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

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

Paula St. Hill, MPH, A-IPC
Technical Advisor, Infection Prevention
Paula.StHill@AlliantHealth.org
678.527.3619
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><a href="mailto:Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov">Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-967-0582)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districts 1-1, 1-2, 2, 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Metro (Cobb-Douglas, Fulton, Clayton,</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov">Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov</a> (256-293-9994)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrenceville, DeKalb, LaGrange)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov">Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov</a> (678-357-4797)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districts 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central (Dublin, Macon, Augusta, &amp; Columbus)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov">Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-967-0589)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districts 5-1, 5-2, 6, 7</td>
<td><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><a href="mailto:Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov">Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-596-1940)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districts 8-1, 8-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast (Savannah, Waycross)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov">Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov</a> (804-514-8756)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districts 9-1, 9-2</td>
<td></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>
Save the Date

SNF and Medical Directors Office Hours:
December 15, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET

ALF and PCH Office Hours:
December 15, 2023 | 1 p.m. ET
Thanks Again…

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia