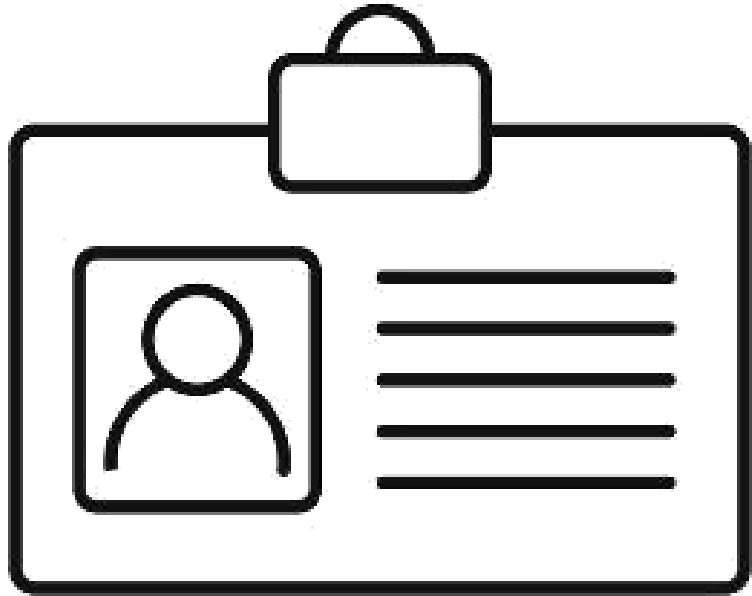




Georgia Department of Public Health: Strike & Support Team
Office Hours for ALFs & PCHs
March 22, 2024

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 Atlanta health care system and a nurse consultant in the Centers 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



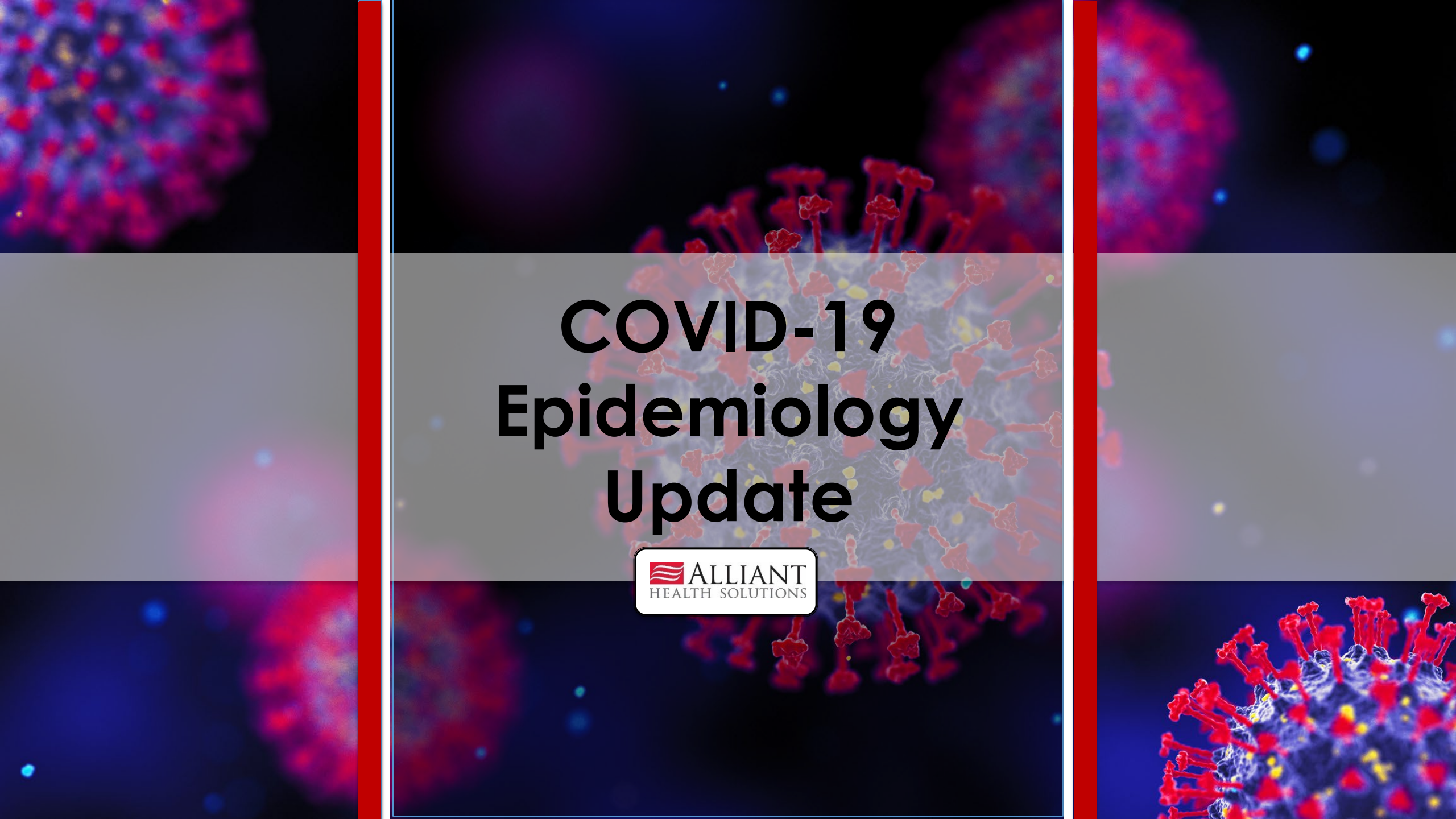
Thank You to Our Partners

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



Objectives

- Provide updates on COVID-19 and other respiratory viral threats that assisted living facilities (ALFs) and personal care homes (PCHs) are facing
- Review CDC COVID-19 guidance updates
- Share GADPH and Alliant Health Solution Resources to support their infection prevention and control initiatives
- Address any questions or concerns from facilities



COVID-19 Epidemiology Update



CDC COVID Data Tracker

COVID-19 Update for the United States

Early Indicators

Test Positivity >

% Test Positivity

5.2%
(March 3 to March 9, 2024)

Trend in % Test Positivity
-1.5% in most recent week



Emergency Department Visits >

% Diagnosed as COVID-19

1.0%
(March 3 to March 9, 2024)

Trend in % Emergency Department Visits
-24.8% 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.

Severity Indicators

Hospitalizations >

Hospital Admissions

13,391
(March 3 to March 9, 2024)

Trend in Hospital Admissions
-13.5% in most recent week



Deaths >

% of All Deaths in U.S. Due to COVID-19

2.0%
(March 3 to March 9, 2024)

Trend in % COVID-19 Deaths
-4.8% in most recent week



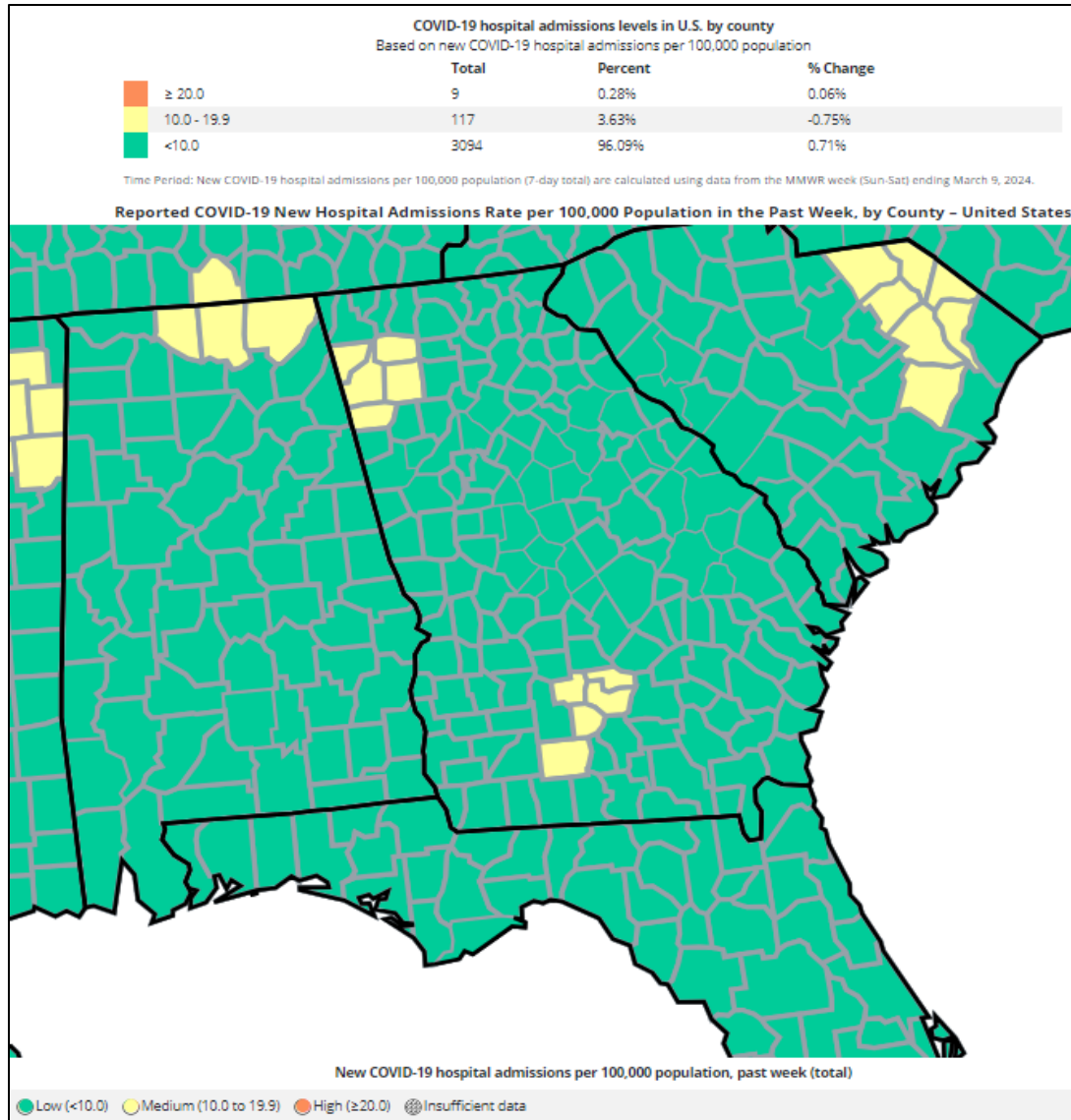
Total Hospitalizations

6,880,585

Total Deaths

1,184,376

CDC | Test Positivity data through: March 9, 2024; Emergency Department Visit data through: March 9, 2024; Hospitalization data through: March 9, 2024; Death data through: March 9, 2024.
Posted: March 15, 2024 12:01 PM ET

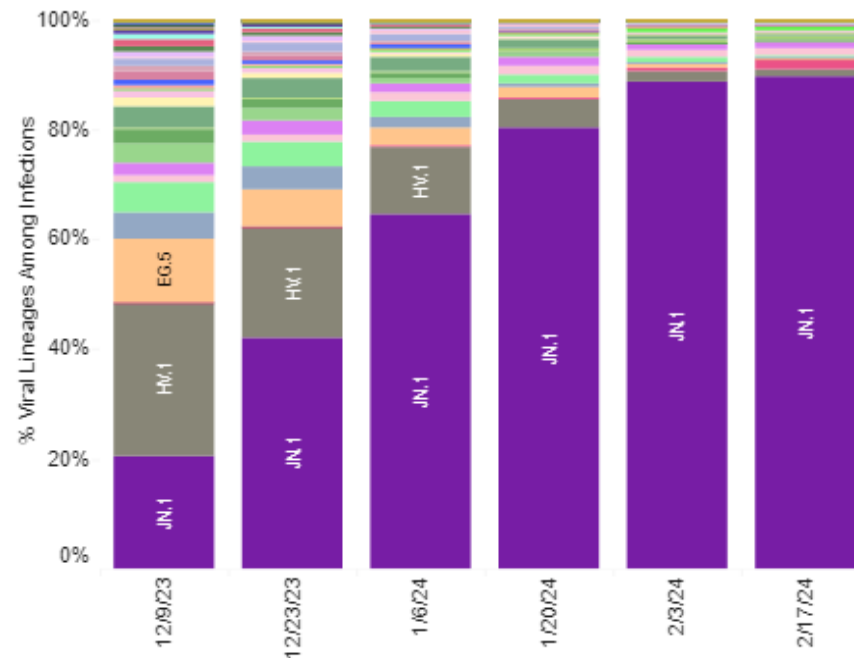


https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_new-admissions-rate-county

Weighted and Nowcast Estimates in United States for 2-Week Periods in 11/26/2023 – 3/16/2024

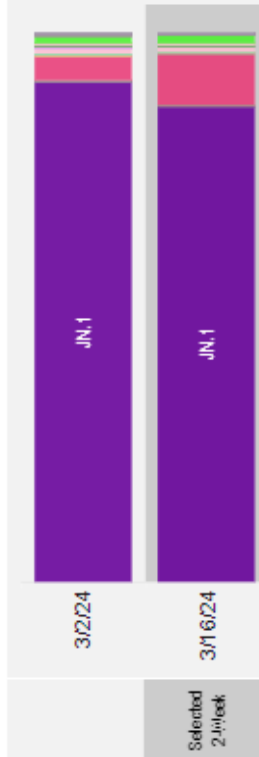
Hover over (or tap in mobile) any lineage of interest to see the amount of uncertainty in that lineage's estimate.

Weighted Estimates: Variant proportions based on reported genomic sequencing results



Collection date, two-week period ending

Nowcast: Model-based projected estimates of variant proportions

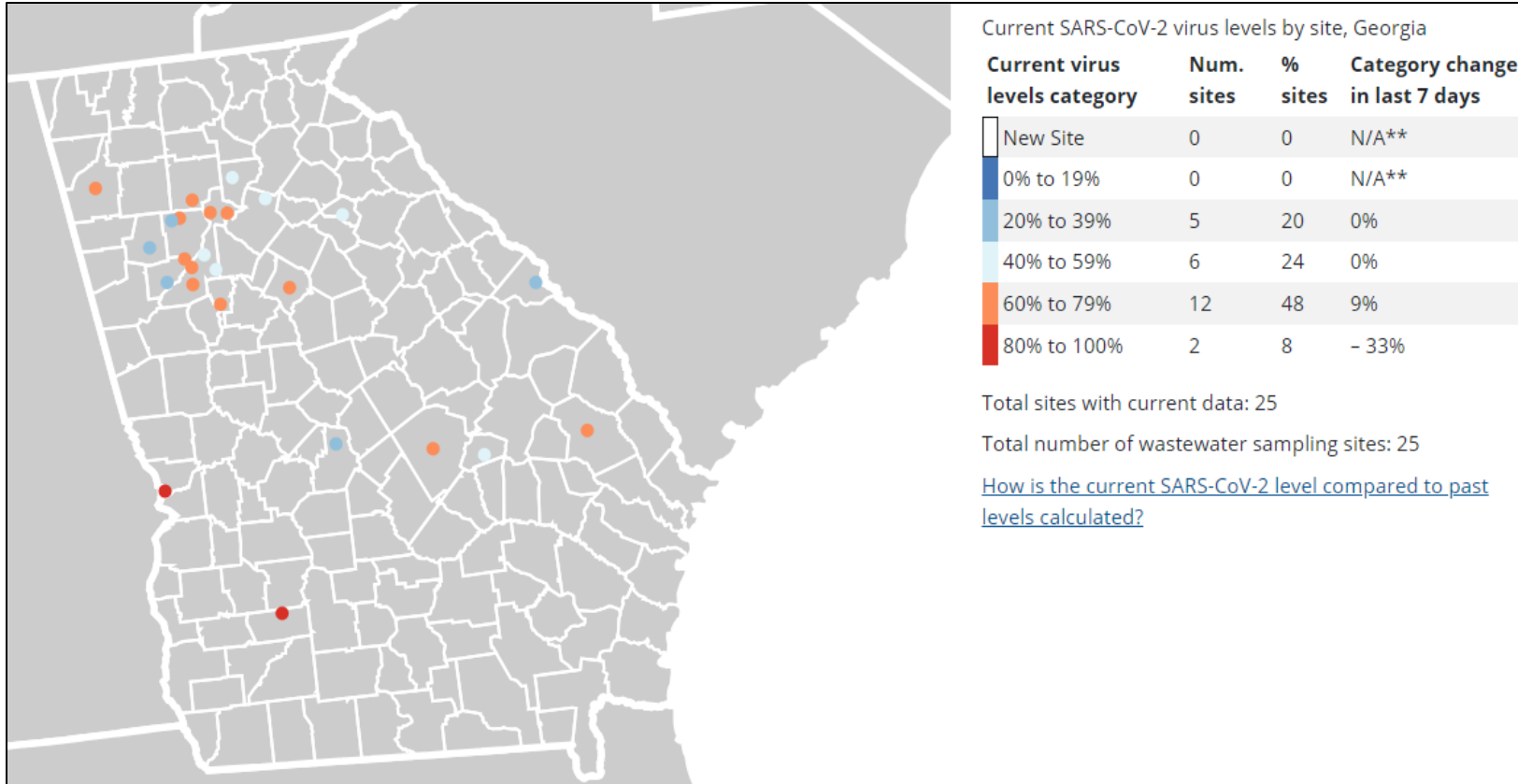


Nowcast Estimates in United States for 3/3/2024 – 3/16/2024

USA			
WHO label	Lineage #	%Total	95%PI
Omicron	JN.1	86.5%	81.4-90.5%
	JN.1.13	9.5%	5.5-15.7%
	JN.1.18	1.8%	1.2-2.7%
	BA.2	0.2%	0.0-1.4%
	BA.2.86	0.2%	0.1-0.3%
	GE.1	0.2%	0.1-0.4%
	HV.1	0.1%	0.1-0.2%
	JG.3	0.1%	0.1-0.1%
	JD.1.1	0.1%	0.0-0.1%
	HK.3	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	EG.5	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB.1.9.1	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	EG.5.1.8	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	JF.1	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB.1.16.15	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB.2.3	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	FL.1.5.1	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB.1.5.70	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB.1.16.6	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB.1.16.11	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	GK.1.1	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	HF.1	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB.1.16	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	GK.2	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB.1.5	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
	XBB.1.16.1	0.0%	0.0-0.0%
Other	Other*	1.2%	0.7-2.0%

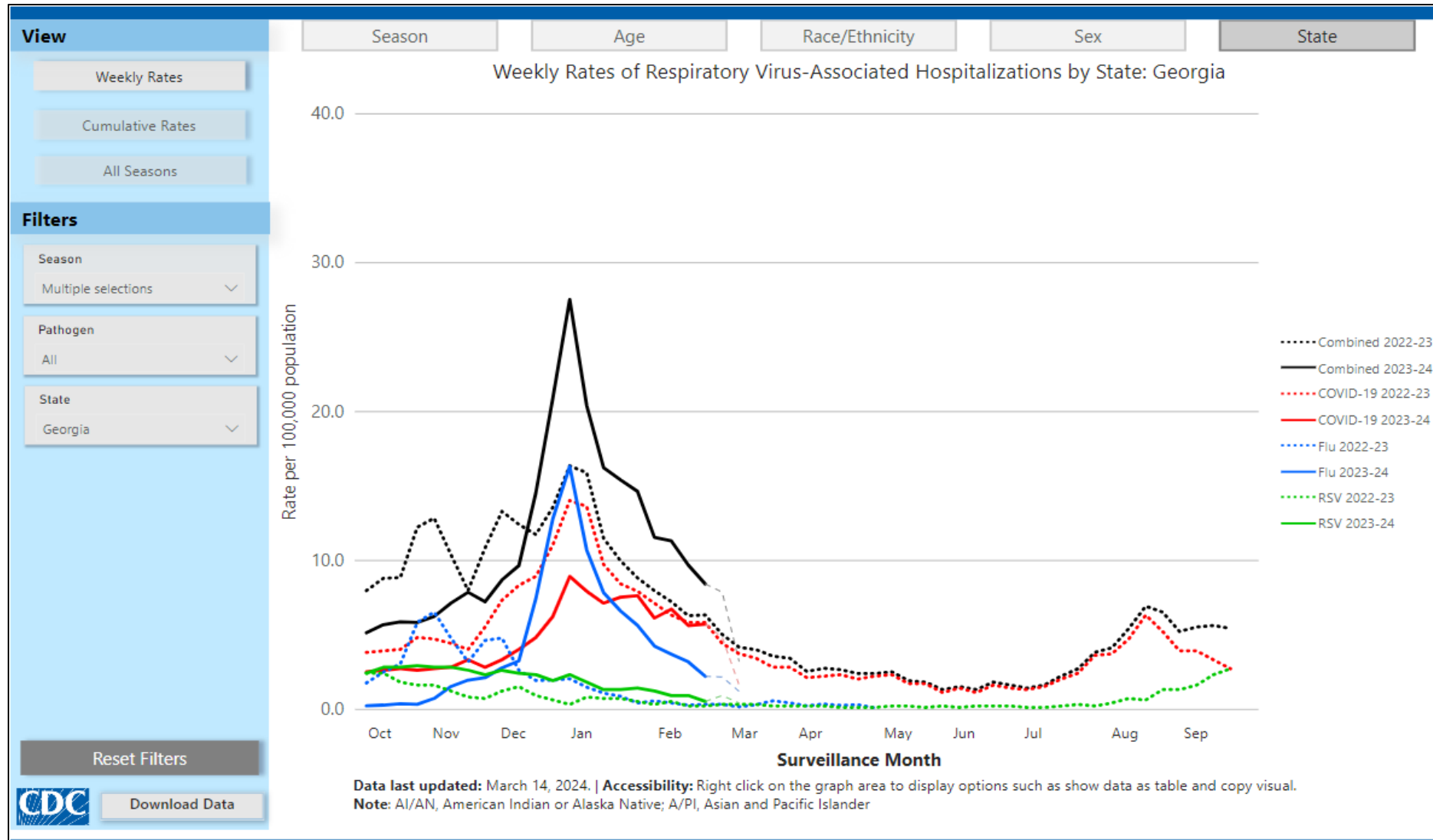
COVID-19 Variant Surveillance CDC

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



Wastewater Surveillance

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance>



CDC RESPNET Dashboard



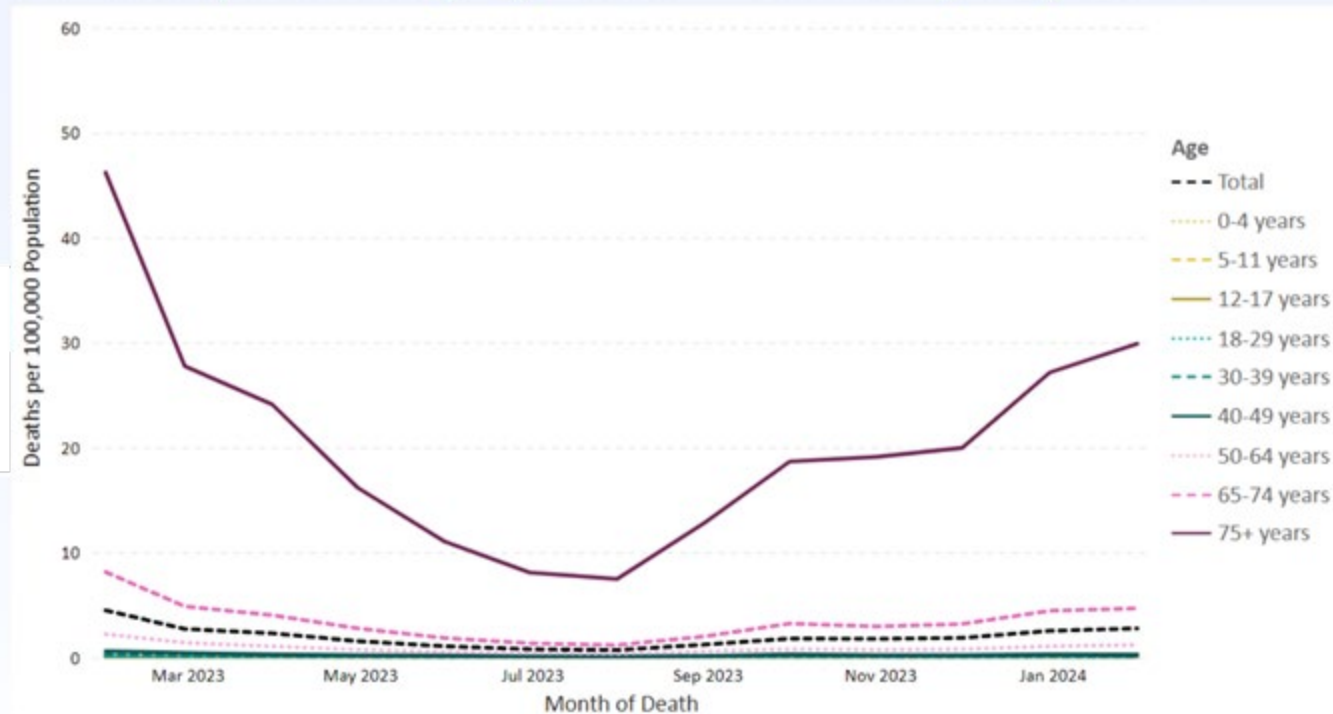
COVID-19 Vaccine Update



Why Was the New COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendation Made?



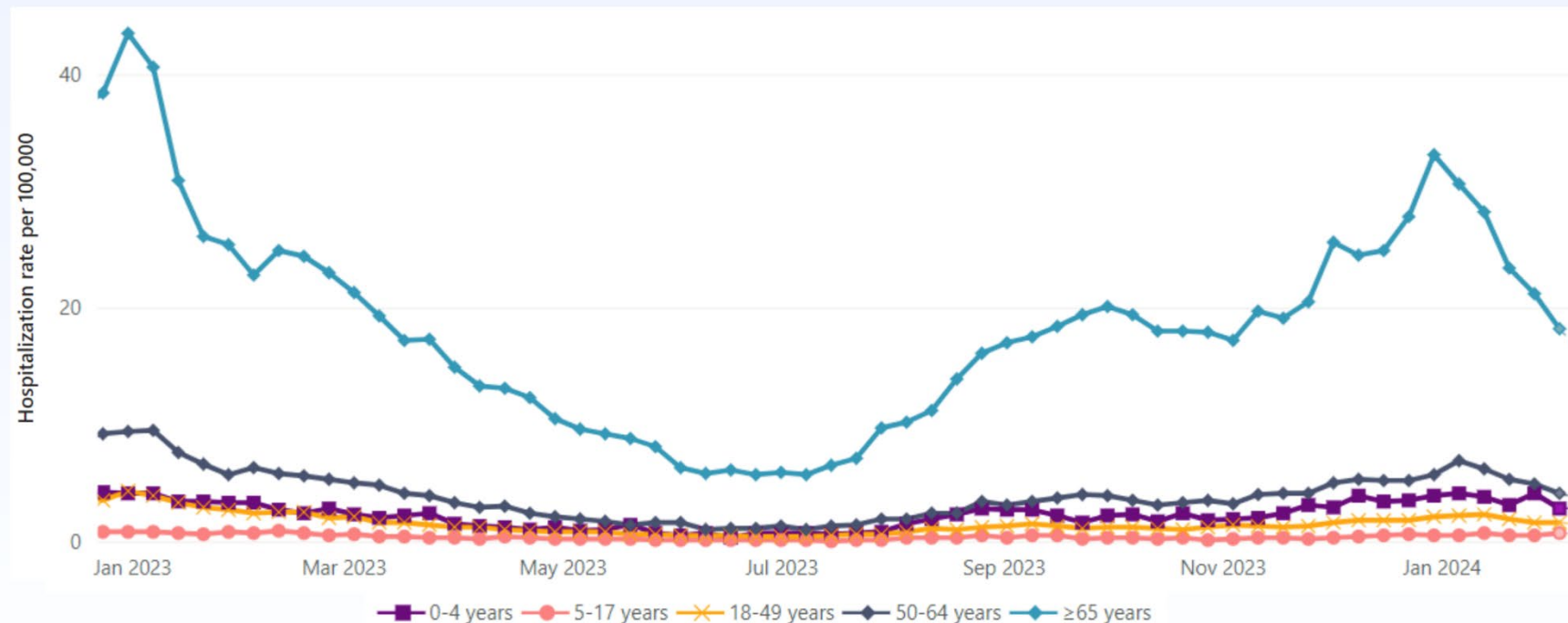
Monthly rates of provisional COVID-19 deaths by age group, United States, January 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024



Provisional data are non-final counts of deaths based on reported mortality data in NVSS. Deaths include those with COVID-19, coded as ICD-10 code U07.1, on the death certificate. Death data are displayed by date of death (event).

Source: Provisional data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) National Vital Statistic System (NVSS); CDC COVID Data Tracker. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographicsovertime>. Accessed February 23, 2024

Weekly population-based rates of COVID-19-associated hospitalizations, by age group — COVID-NET, January 1, 2023 – February 24, 2024

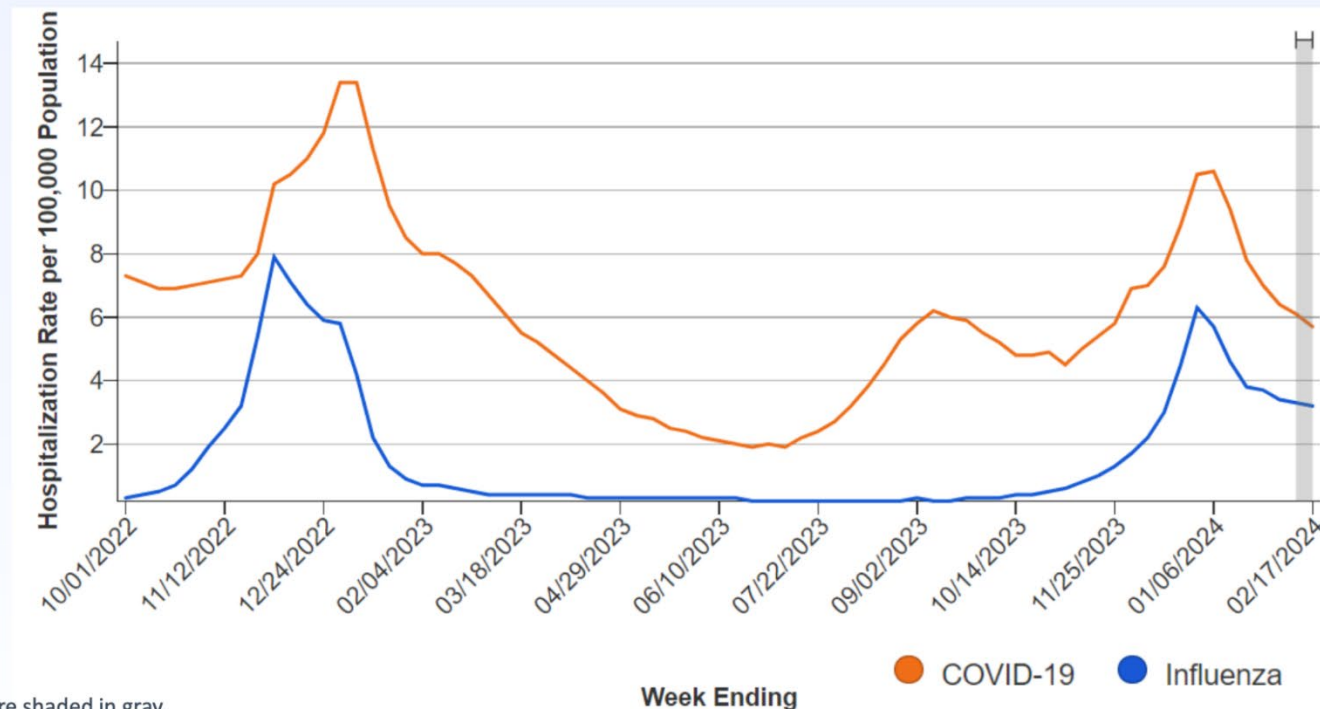


Dashed lines indicate potential reporting delays and interpretation of trends should exclude these weeks.

CDC COVID Data Tracker. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#covidnet-hospitalization-network>. Accessed February 23, 2024

ACIP Meeting February 28, 2024

Weekly hospitalization rate per 100,000 population, United States, October 1, 2022 – February 17, 2024



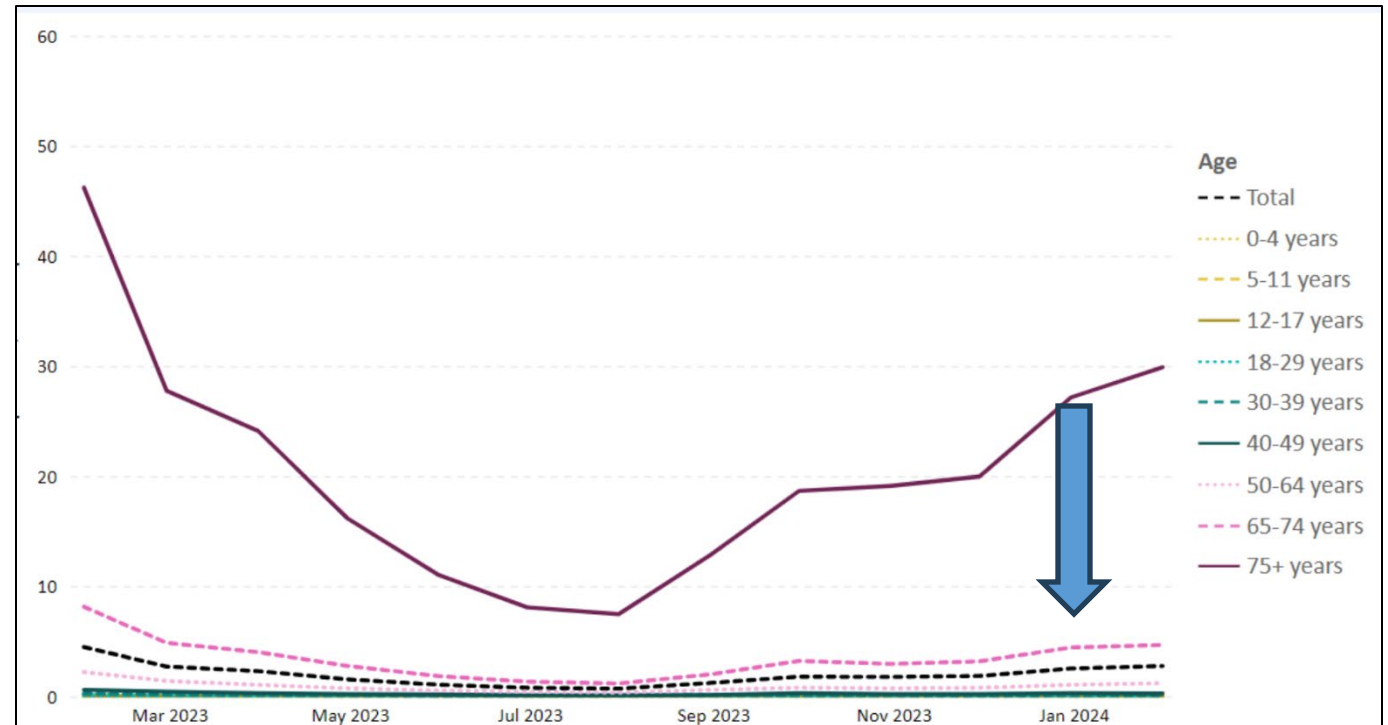
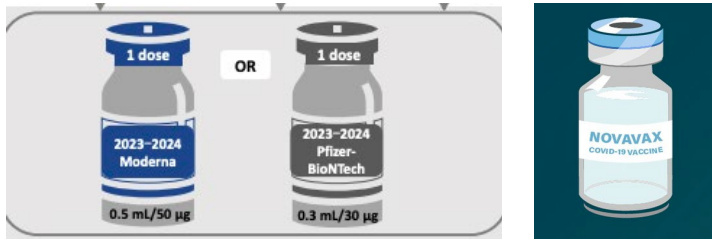
Preliminary data are shaded in gray.

Dashed line represents the nadir for COVID-19 hospitalization rates.

CDC Respiratory Virus Activity Levels. National Healthcare Safety Network. <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data-research/dashboard/illness-severity.html>. Accessed February 23, 2024

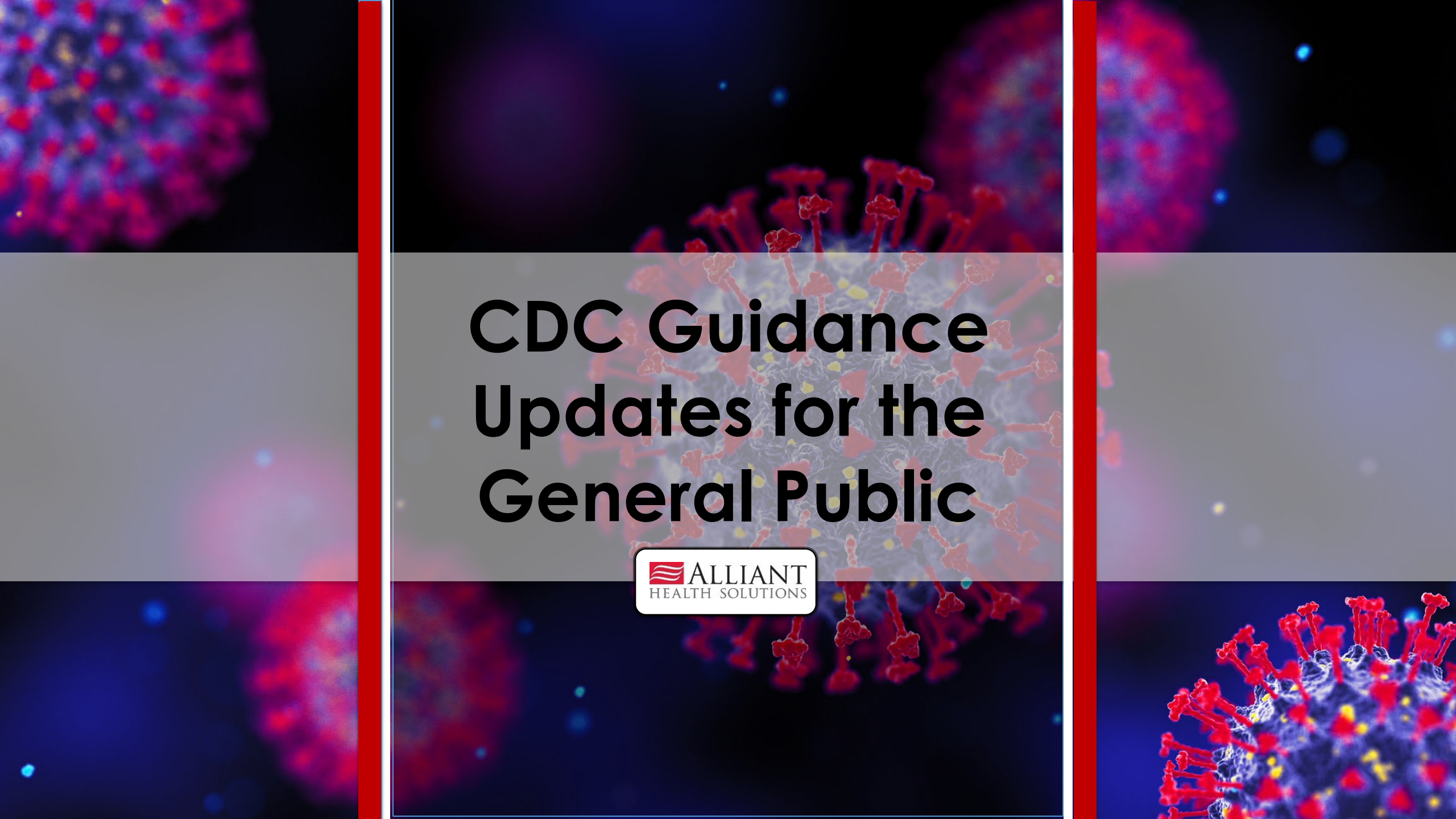
What Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendation?

- ALL > six months SHOULD receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine (existing recommendation)
- Additional dose of updated COVID-19 vaccine **SHOULD** be administered four months after the original updated vaccine for those ≥ 65 years old (new additional recommendation)



<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/s-0228-covid.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html>



CDC Guidance Updates for the General Public



CDC Recommendations for COVID-19

General Public

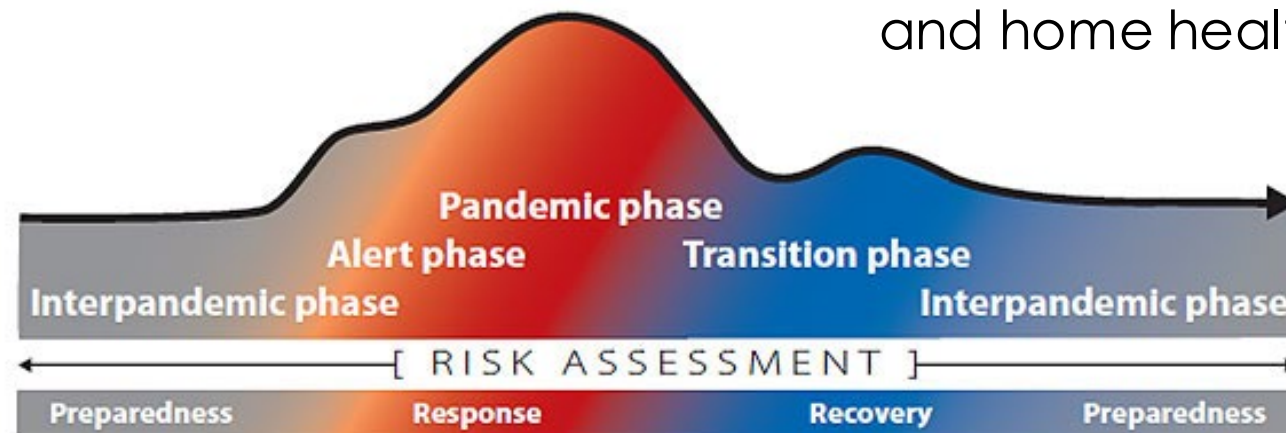
CDC updated guidelines for the public

- Standardized [recommendations for respiratory viruses](#), including but not limited to COVID-19, influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

Health Care Settings

No changes were made to the [CDC IPC guidelines for health care settings](#)

- This guidance still applies to all settings where health care is delivered, including nursing homes and home health.



Rationale for General Public Guidance Updates

- Fewer hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19
- Protective tools (i.e., vaccines, treatments)
- High degree of population immunity against COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/background/index.html>

Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot

Core prevention strategies



Immunizations



Hygiene



Steps for Cleaner Air



Treatment



Stay Home and Prevent Spread*



Additional prevention strategies

Masks



Distancing



Tests



Layering prevention strategies can be especially helpful when:

- ✓ Respiratory viruses are causing a lot of illness in your community
- ✓ You or those around you have risk factors for severe illness
- ✓ You or those around you were recently exposed, are sick, or are recovering

***Stay home and away from others until, for 24 hours BOTH:**



Your symptoms are getting better



You are fever-free (without meds)



Then take added precaution for the next 5 days

Core Prevention Strategies: Immunizations

Individuals can:

- Talk with a health care provider to make sure you are up to date on vaccines.
- Review the [vaccine schedule](#) to become familiar with the immunizations recommended for you and when you should get them.
- Visit www.vaccines.gov to locate flu and COVID-19 vaccines near you.

Organizations can:

- Organize vaccination clinics at workplaces.
- Provide employees with paid time off to get vaccinated and recover from any side effects.

Core Prevention Strategies: Hygiene

Individuals can:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you [cough or sneeze](#). Throw used tissues in the trash. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
- Learn and use [proper handwashing techniques](#).
- [Teach children](#) the correct way to wash their hands.
- [Clean](#) frequently touched surfaces, such as countertops, handrails and doorknobs regularly.

Organizations can:

- Order [free hygiene posters](#) and display them in highly visible areas.
- Make sure facilities are equipped with hand hygiene supplies.
- Place hand sanitizer dispensers with at least 60% alcohol near frequently touched surfaces and in areas where soap and water are not easily accessible, such as near elevators, shared equipment and building entrances and exits.
- [Clean](#) frequently touched surfaces, such as countertops, handrails and doorknobs regularly.

Core Prevention Strategies: Cleaner Air

Individuals can:

- Bring as much fresh air into your home as possible by opening doors and windows and/or using exhaust fans.
- Use a portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) cleaner.
- Move activities outdoors, where airflow is best.
- Use CDC's [Interactive Home Ventilation Tool](https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/guidance/respiratory-virus-guidance.html) to see how particle levels change as you adjust ventilation settings.

Organizations can:

- Ensure existing HVAC systems are providing at least the minimum outdoor air ventilation requirement in accordance with ventilation design codes.
- Aim for five or more air changes per hour (ACH) of clean air.

Core Prevention Strategies: Masks

Individuals can:

- When choosing to wear a mask, choose the most protective type you can. Determine how well it fits.
- Learn about the [proper technique](#) for wearing an N95 respirator.

Organizations can:

- Provide free, high-quality masks to your workforce or visitors during higher respiratory viral spread.

Core Prevention Strategies: Physical Distancing

Individuals can:

- Avoid being near someone who has respiratory virus symptoms.
- Avoid crowded areas where you may be unable to maintain physical distance.

Organizations can:

- Provide employees with paid time off and flexible telework policies to support workers in staying home if sick.

Core Prevention Strategies: Testing

Individuals can:

- Plan in advance for any illness so you can be ready to get tested quickly.
- Antigen tests can be used for screening before gathering with others, especially to help protect people in your life who have [risk factors for severe illness](#).

Organizations can:

- Provide employees with paid time off to seek testing for respiratory viruses, as needed.

Core Prevention Strategies: Treatment

Individuals can:

- Know the treatment options for [flu](#) and [COVID-19](#) before you get sick.
- Talk with a healthcare provider about planning to access treatment in advance of when you might need it.
- Take all treatments as prescribed.
- Talk to a healthcare provider about any questions you have about treatments.

Organizations can:

- Share educational materials about respiratory virus treatment options:
 - [Flu](#)
 - [COVID-19](#)
- Provide employees with paid time off to seek treatment for a respiratory virus, as needed.

Core Prevention Strategies: Preventing Spread When You're Sick

- Resume normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both are true:
 - Your symptoms are getting better overall, **and**
 - You have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).
- Take added precautions over the next five days
 - [Steps for cleaner air](#)
 - [Hygiene](#)
 - [Masks](#)
 - [Physical distancing](#)
 - [Testing when you](#) will be around other people indoors.

Situations for Which the Respiratory Virus Guidance Does Not Apply

- **This guidance is not meant to apply to specialized situations, like health care or certain disease outbreaks, in which more detailed guidance specific to the pathogen may be warranted.**
- The Respiratory Virus Guidance covers most common respiratory viral illnesses but should not supplant specific guidance for pathogens that require special containment measures, such as measles.
 - The guidance may not apply in certain outbreak situations when more specific guidance may be needed.
- CDC offers separate, specific guidance for health care settings ([COVID-19](#), [flu](#), and [general infection prevention and control](#)).

Resources





DPH

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH

An official website of the State of Georgia.

How you know

About DPH

Health Topics

COVID-19

Vital Records

Women and Children

Immunizations

Environmental Health

Epidemiology

Home

Epidemiology

Epidemiology

Healthcare Associated Infections

Acute Disease Epidemiology

Emerging Infections Program (EIP)

Viral Hepatitis

Epidemiology Emergency Preparedness

Epidemiology

Epidemiology is the central science of public health. As such, epidemiology provides the scientific input that shapes public health policy, program directions, and activities. The Georgia Department of Public Health Epidemiology Section conducts surveillance for the occurrence of diseases and other health conditions that affect Georgians. By determining the who, what, where, when, how, and why related to these diseases and health conditions, appropriate interventions and control measures can be implemented to lessen their health impact. When an outbreak occurs, immediate action may be needed to prevent or control a situation. In the case of chronic diseases or injuries, more sustained activities may be required to prevent their occurrence or reduce their severity.

The Epidemiology Section carries out a number of activities to identify diseases and describe health conditions, assess the health of Georgians, and develop recommendations to control diseases and improve the overall health status in the state. These include:

<https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology>

COVID-19 Vaccines

Schedule an Appointment

Vaccines are a safe and effective way to limit serious illnesses, hospitalizations, and death.

[LEARN MORE →](#)



Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination.

[Learn more at CDC](#)

Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines

What You Need to Know

- CDC recommends the 2023–2024 updated COVID-19 vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax, to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.
- Everyone aged 5 years and older [‡] should get **1 dose of an updated COVID-19 vaccine** to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.
- Children aged 6 months–4 years need multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccines to be up to date, including at least 1 dose of updated COVID-19 vaccine.
- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may get additional doses of updated COVID-19 vaccine.
- COVID-19 vaccine recommendations will be updated as needed.
- People who are up to date have lower risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19 than people who are unvaccinated or who have not completed the doses recommended for them by CDC.

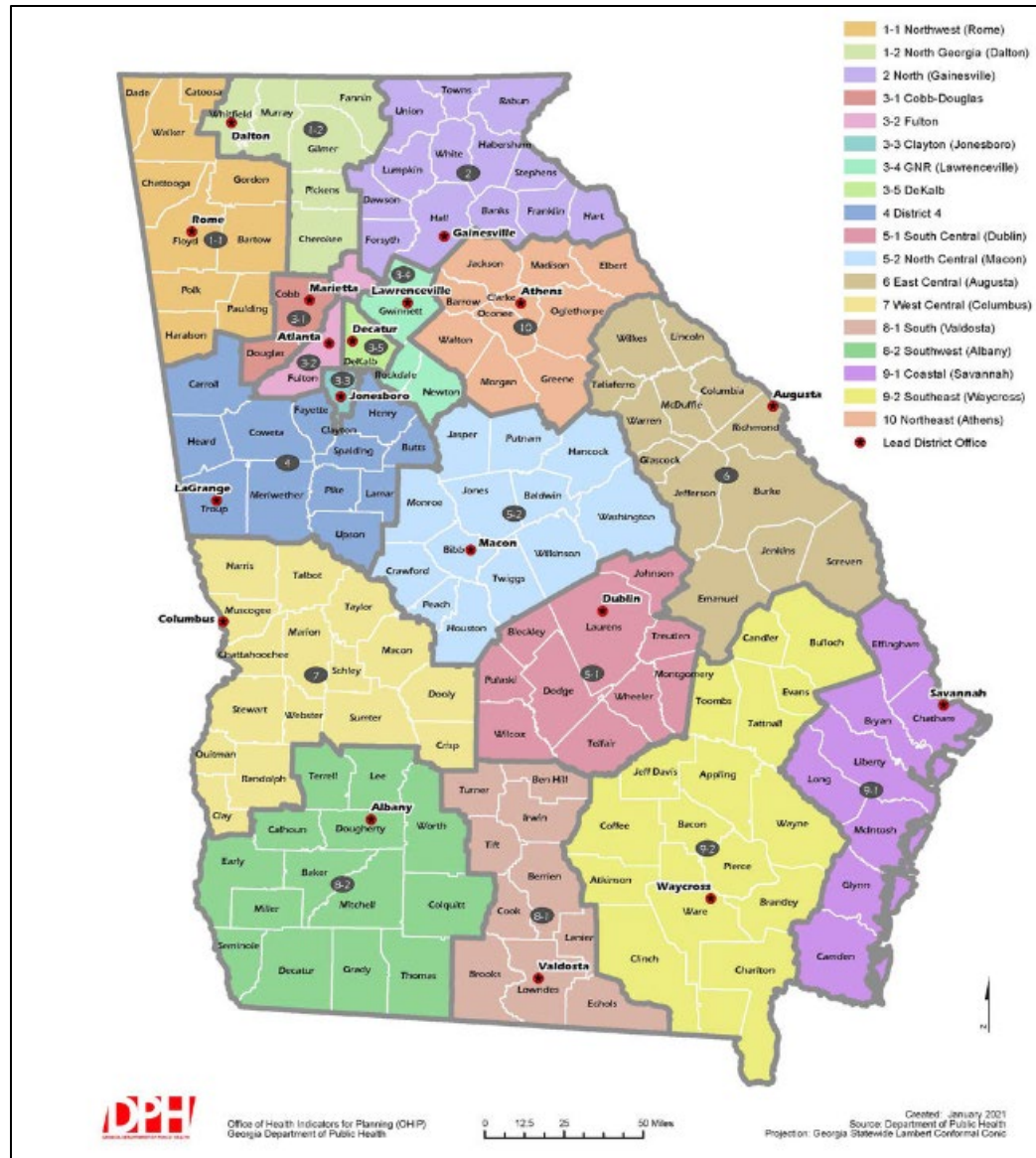
[Find a COVID-19 or Flu Vax near you](#)

GA COVID-19 Hotline

This hotline is for questions about COVID-19 and COVID vaccine only, not for scheduling appointments for vaccination.

(888) 357-0169

<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19>



GADPH Public Health Districts and Contacts

<https://dph.georgia.gov/public-health-districts>

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)

Alliant Health Solutions Resources



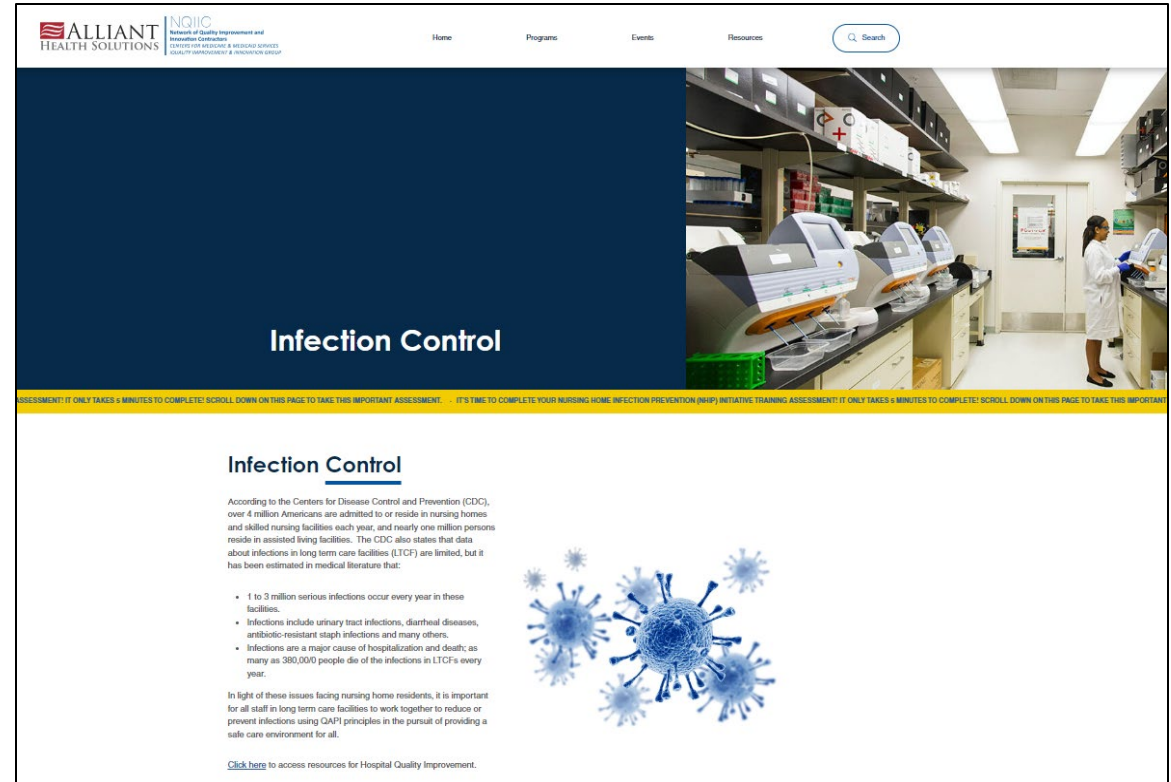
The screenshot shows the Alliant Health Solutions website with the 'Programs' tab selected. The main heading is 'Georgia Department of Public Health'. Below it, there is a banner for the 'GA STRIKE & SUPPORT TEAM' featuring logos for DPH, Alliant Health Solutions, and the University of Georgia. A large arrow points from the banner to the right. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'GA Strike & Support Team' with a description of the program and a list of topics to be discussed.

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.

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



The screenshot shows the Alliant Health Solutions website with the 'Resources' tab selected. The main heading is 'Infection Control'. Below it, there is a banner for the 'Infection Control' program featuring a photo of a laboratory. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'Infection Control' with a description of the program and a list of topics to be discussed.

Infection Control

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 4 million Americans are admitted to or reside in nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities each year, and nearly one million persons reside in assisted living facilities. The CDC also states that data about infections in long term care facilities (LTCF) are limited, but it has been estimated in medical literature that:

- 1 to 3 million serious infections occur every year in these facilities.
- Infections include urinary tract infections, diarrheal diseases, antibiotic-resistant staph infections and many others.
- Infections are a major cause of hospitalization and death; as many as 380,000 people die of the infections in LTCF's every year.

In light of these issues facing nursing home residents, it is important for all staff in long term care facilities to work together to reduce or prevent infections using QAPI principles in the pursuit of providing a safe care environment for all.

[Click here](#) to access resources for Hospital Quality Improvement.

<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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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



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Infection Prevention Specialist
Erica.Umeakunne@AlliantHealth.org

Thank you!

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



Making Health Care Better



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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.

quality.allianthealth.org