Agenda

• Call to order
• Roll Call
• Approval/Adoption of Minutes
• New Business
  o Epidemiology Updates
    ▪ COVID
    ▪ Hepatitis of Unknown Etiology in Children
  o COVID Testing Update
  o Drug Overdoses and the Rise in Fentanyl
  o Commissioner’s Closing Remarks
• Board Comments
• Adjournment
Snapshot of COVID-19 (5/10/22)

• In the US, COVID case numbers have generally **doubled** over the last two weeks as the highly-transmissible BA.2.12.1 subvariant spreads (40% of all circulating virus). We are seeing increases in almost all states (some hot spots include Hawaii, Maine, Rhode Island, Puerto Rico).

• In Georgia, case numbers have **increased by 65%** in the last two weeks. Hospitalization and death numbers are also beginning to increase (by about 10% and 36%, respectively, in the last week).

• 56% of the Georgia population is fully vaccinated and 24% boosterated (vaccine numbers still decreasing in GA)

• **Most all COVID deaths and hospitalizations have occurred among those un- or under-vaccinated.**
Total COVID-19 Cases
COVID-19 Hospitalizations

Daily Counts of COVID-19 Patients

-93% +10%
COVID-19 Deaths

![Graph showing confirmed deaths in Georgia over time.](image)

- **Confirmed Deaths**
  - **Georgi**a
  - **Date of Report**

Data sources: [GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH](#)
COVID Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, Georgia, 1/1/21-5/9/22
Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Vaccine Status
COVID-19 Summary

• The highly transmissible Omicron sublineage BA.2.12.1 is increasing in circulation nationally and driving up cases and hospitalizations in most all states (this is the 6th pandemic wave, but much lower than previous ones).

• Last week the US reached the grim milestone of 1,000,000 COVID deaths

• Still no complacency: SARS-CoV-2 is still with us, has proven very adept at changing, and has myriad opportunities with so many unvaccinated and immune-compromised people. We expect additional waves this year.

• Vaccination, boosters, surveillance, testing, and traditional mitigation are critical to control this wave and WHEN we face other variants that emerge and result in surges over the next several years.
Hepatitis of Unknown Etiology in Children

• In October 2021, 9 young children in Alabama were diagnosed with severe, acute hepatitis of unknown etiology (several of whom needed liver transplants).

• Additional investigation identified a total of 109 children under investigation in 25 states (including several in Georgia) since October 2021, with 5 deaths.

• 90% of the children were hospitalized, 14% needed transplants, the median age was 2 years. None had hepatitis viruses (A-E). Half of the children had adenovirus type 41 infections, half did not.

• About 300 suspect cases have also been identified in 24 other countries.
Hepatitis of Unknown Etiology in Children

- At this time, the cause of hepatitis in these children is still unknown. While adenovirus has been detected in some children, we do not know if it is the cause of the illness.
- CDC is casting a very wide net to identify affected patients and ask detailed questions about previous infections, other potential exposures, toxins, medications, co-factors, etc.
- Hepatitis remains a very rare illness in young children.
- CDC is asking providers to report suspect cases to the state or local health department and consider testing for adenovirus.
Closing Comments

1. Infectious diseases are ever-changing and unpredictable!

2. **Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation** are the cornerstones of prevention and control recommendations.
Questions

For more information, please contact:

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COVID-19 Testing Update

Board of Public Health / David Newton, Director of Health Protection / May 10, 2022
COVID-19 Testing Landscape

SPOC Sites - April/May 2022
132 SPOC sites
  • 47 Health Department Sites
  • 85 Contractor run sites
Decreased demand for SPOC sites (see next slides)

Over-the-Counter Test Kits (OTC)
• 10,368 tests distributed directly from state to 4 County Health Departments (CHDs)
• 48,454 tests distributed to Health Districts
  o Will be used for distribution to CHDs, first responders, vulnerable populations, and other community partners
PCR Tests for DPH SPOCs (March 2020-Present)
PCR Tests for DPH SPOCs (1/1/2022-Present)
Questions

For more information, please contact:

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Georgia Drug Overdose Surveillance

Drug Overdoses and the Rise of Fentanyl

Board of Public Health / Laura Edison, DVM, MPH / May 10, 2022
Three Waves of the Rise in Overdose Deaths

Wave 1: Rise in Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths Started in 1999
Wave 2: Rise in Heroin Overdose Deaths Started in 2010
Wave 3: Rise in Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths Started in 2013

Rapid Rise of Fentanyl

• Fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses have been increasing nationally and in Georgia in recent years and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

• Fentanyl is largely driving these increases, 64% of drug overdoses in the U.S. involved a synthetic opioid during 2021

• Fentanyl is 100x more potent than morphine

• From 2019 to 2021 in Georgia:
  • Drug overdose deaths increased by 56% – 2,327 lives lost
  • Fentanyl-involved overdose deaths increased by 218% – 1,248 lives lost
GBI: 125,000 lethal doses of fentanyl seized in drug bust

The record quantities of fentanyl that DEA seized in 2021 are enough to kill every American.

Fentanyl Seizures and Overdose Deaths
2011 - 2020

$ r = .963, p < .05 $
### Drug Seizures by Atlanta-Carolina HIDTA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kilograms</strong></td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>13.81</td>
<td>22.50</td>
<td>36.29</td>
<td>57.37</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Price</strong></td>
<td>$65,054</td>
<td>$64,997</td>
<td>$65,004</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$32,739</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Value</strong></td>
<td>$236,146</td>
<td>$897,609</td>
<td>$1,462,590</td>
<td>$1,088,700</td>
<td>$1,878,208</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dosage Units</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>5,326</td>
<td>3,415</td>
<td>70,843</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Price</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$135.00</td>
<td>$135.00</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$99,765</td>
<td>$719,010</td>
<td>$15,368</td>
<td>$1,062,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Value</strong></td>
<td>$236,146</td>
<td>$997,374</td>
<td>$2,181,600</td>
<td>$1,104,068</td>
<td>$2,940,853</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
All Street Drugs Are Dangerous

- Fentanyl is cheap and easy to produce
- It can be and is found in ANY type of street drug
- Commonly found in stimulants, heroin, and counterfeit pills
- Some drug users seek fentanyl for the high and price but often drug users are not aware they are taking fentanyl

Most Common Counterfeit Pills

- Oxycontin®
- Adderall®
- Xanax®
Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths Occurring in Georgia, by Drug Type, 2010-2021
Fentanyl-Involved Overdose Deaths and Opioid/Non-Opioid Pairings

*Categories are not mutually exclusive.*
Drug Overdose Deaths, By Drug Type, Georgia, 2019 - 2021

Number of Deaths

- Opioid
- Fentanyl
- Amphetamine
- Cocaine

Drug Overdose Deaths, By Drug Type, Georgia, 2019 - 2021

Number of Deaths

- Opioid
- Fentanyl
- Amphetamine
- Cocaine

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Drug Overdose Deaths, by Drug Type and Race
Georgia, 2019-2021

252% increase in fentanyl overdose deaths among Blacks compared to 213% among Whites
Drug Overdose Deaths, by Drug Type and Age Group
Georgia, 2019 - 2021
Rapid Surveillance and Response

- DPH Drug Surveillance Unit monitors emergency department visits and EMS trip reports (timely), and death certificates (reporting lag) for clusters of overdoses
- DSU sends weekly notifications to the Opioid Public Health Assistant (PHA) in districts when follow-up is needed
- PHA reviews medical records and determines if further action
- If data is concerning, local partners are notified including law enforcement, the healthcare community, harm reduction, and more
- State and local public messaging when warranted

![District Notifications Chart]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Notifications</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>209</td>
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</table>
March 28, 2022

Dear Community Partner,

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has received reports of increased overdoses (OD) in various areas of the state over the past month which are caused by drugs mixed with fentanyl, particularly cocaine, methamphetamine, and counterfeit pills. We have reason to suspect these substances and related overdoses will continue to show up across the state of Georgia. In addition, these fentanyl-containing drugs have appeared in and caused overdoses in other states, including Florida. It is critical that drug users understand that there is a risk of overdose when using stimulants or other drugs that may be mixed with fentanyl.

For Immediate Release:
March 31, 2022

Increased Reports of Overdoses Involving Drugs Mixed with Fentanyl

Atlanta – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) Drug Surveillance Unit has received increased reports of overdoses due to drugs mixed with fentanyl, particularly cocaine, methamphetamine, and counterfeit pills. Overdoses have been reported in several areas of the state over the past month.

FOX 5 Atlanta

‘One pill can kill you’: Georgia health officials warn of spike in drug overdoses

ATLANTA, Ga - Georgia health officials are warning about a spike in drug overdoses. They say a major contributor is drugs laced with...
Current Situation

• From mid-February through mid-March, suspect overdose (OD) emergency department (ED) visits increased 364% compared to the previous 30-day period.
• 12 Confirmed Cases in Valdosta (8-1), Cobb (3-1), and Athens (10-0) Districts.
  o Only areas with known EDs doing fentanyl tox screens.
• 1 confirmed OD death involving a patient who snorted cocaine but tested positive for fentanyl.
  o 19 suspect OD deaths involving fentanyl, stimulants, and Xylazine.
• Multiple suspect cases of stimulants, heroin, and pills laced with fentanyl in the past 2 weeks.
Next Steps

• Continue monitoring data, improve action from notifications
• Educate the public about
  • The dangers of fentanyl and street drugs
    https://www.fentanylawarenessday.org
  • Get naloxone in more hands
  • Medical amnesty
  • Georgia Crisis & Access Line
    1-800-715-4225
• Fentanyl test strips
• Prevention, treatment, support recovery, and so much more
Thank You

Laura Edison
Laura.Edison@dph.ga.gov

For more information, visit:
https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology/drug-surveillance-unit
https://dph.georgia.gov/sttopopioidaddiction
Commissioner’s Closing Remarks

Board of Public Health / Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H. / May 10, 2022
The next Board of Public Health meeting will be held June 14, 2022.