

Georgia Board of Public Health

Sept. 14, 2021

Agenda

- Call to order
- Roll Call
- Approval/Adoption of Minutes
- Commissioner's Update

James Curran, M.D., Board Chair

Mitch Rodriguez, M.D., Secretary

Mitch Rodriguez, M.D., Secretary

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner

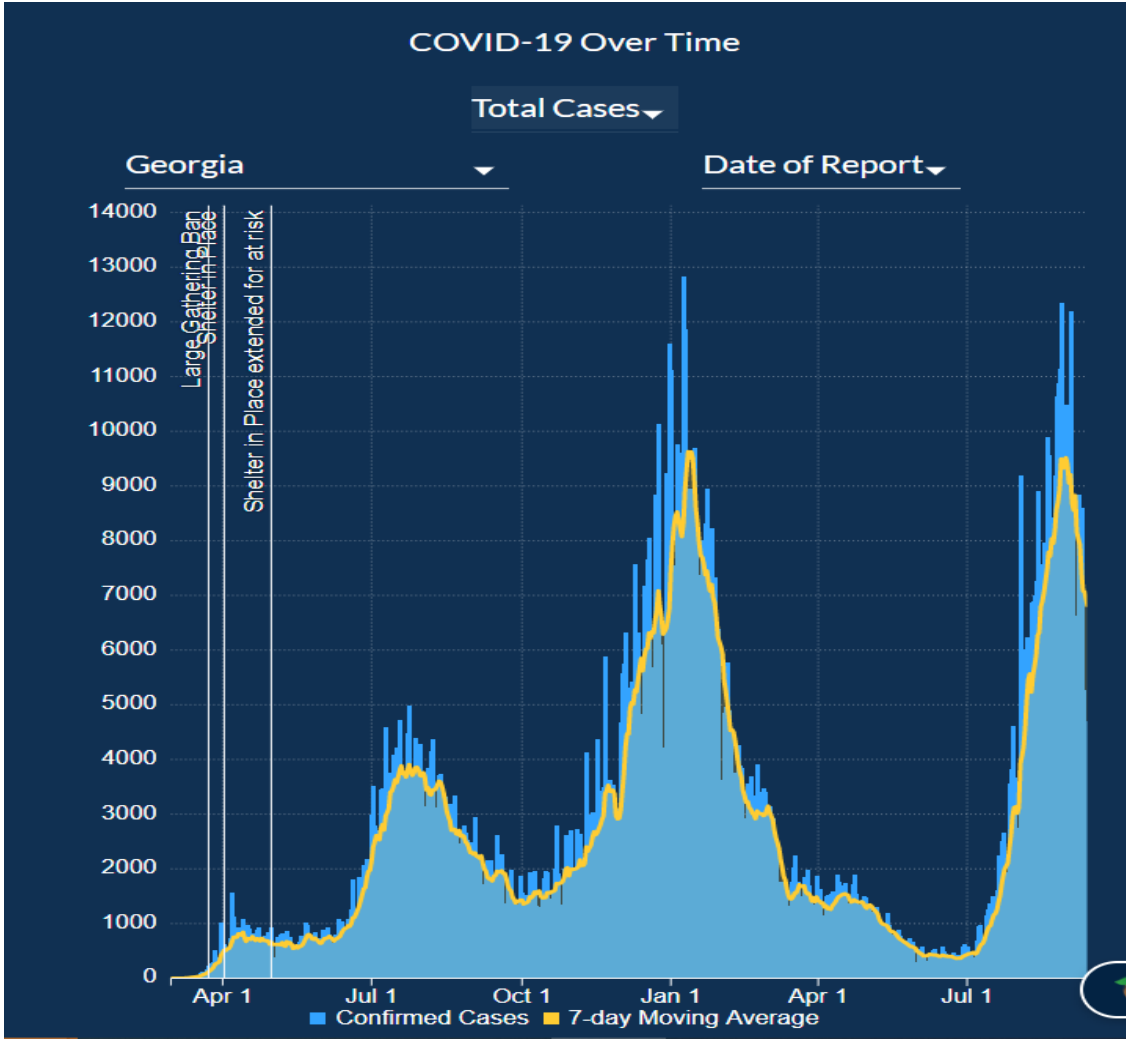
Epidemiology Update: COVID-19

Board of Public Health / Cherie L. Drenzek, DVM, MS, State Epidemiologist / Sept. 14, 2021

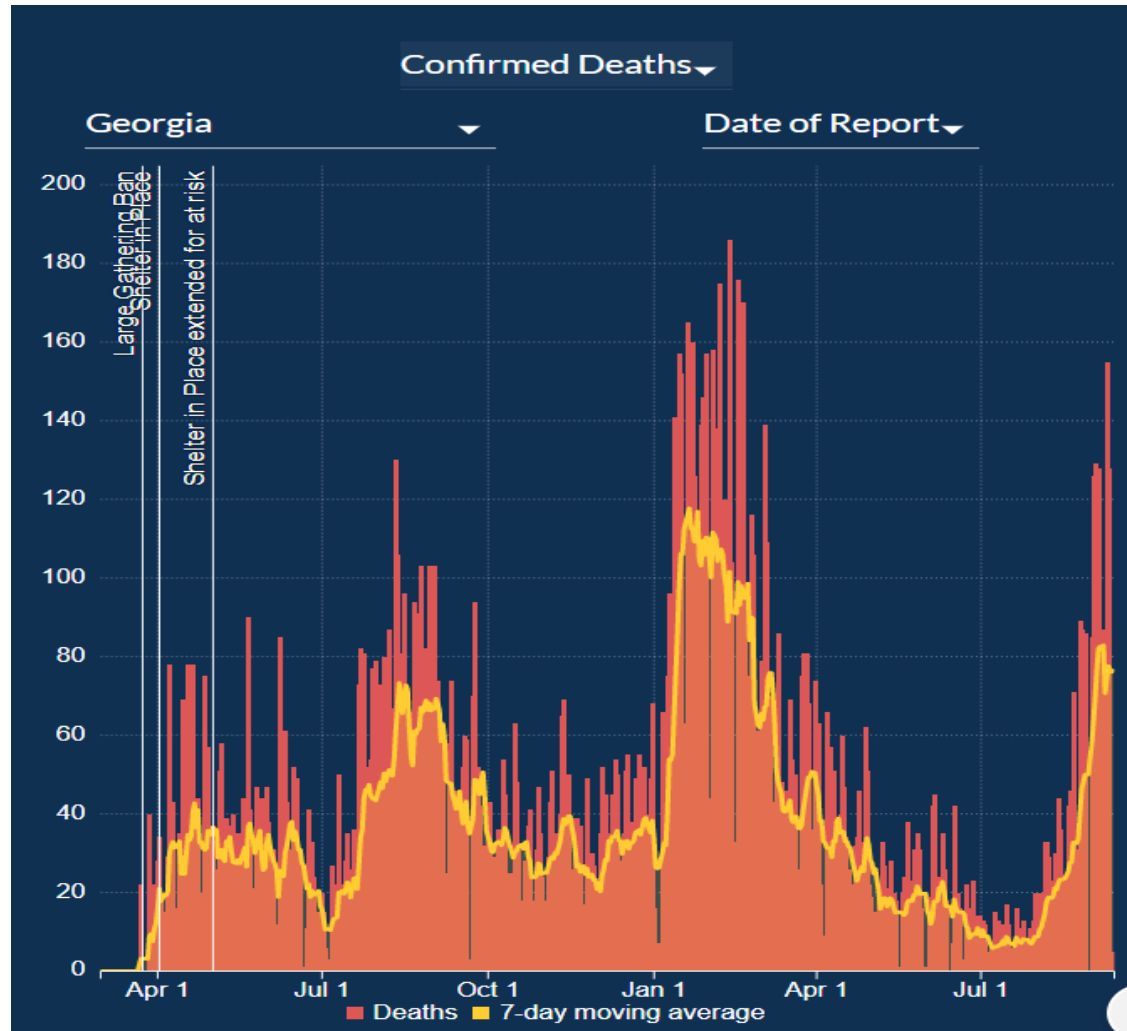
Snapshot of COVID-19 in Georgia (9/14/21)

- Cumulative >1,500,000 cases, >76,000 hospitalizations, >23,000 deaths
- High transmission levels in all counties statewide
- Delta variant began spreading in Georgia after July 4 ("4th wave")
- Exponential increase in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths over next 60 days
- 20X increase in cases, 13X increase in hosp, 17X increase in deaths since July 1
- Beginning to see slight decreases in last 7 days
- **Epidemiologic trend: large impact on school-aged children (all indicators)**
- About 60% of all COVID outbreaks now in K-12 schools (7X increase)
- 53% of Georgians have had at least one dose of COVID vaccine
- **Nearly all (>99.9%) COVID deaths and hospitalizations occurred among unvaccinated individuals**

Total Cases

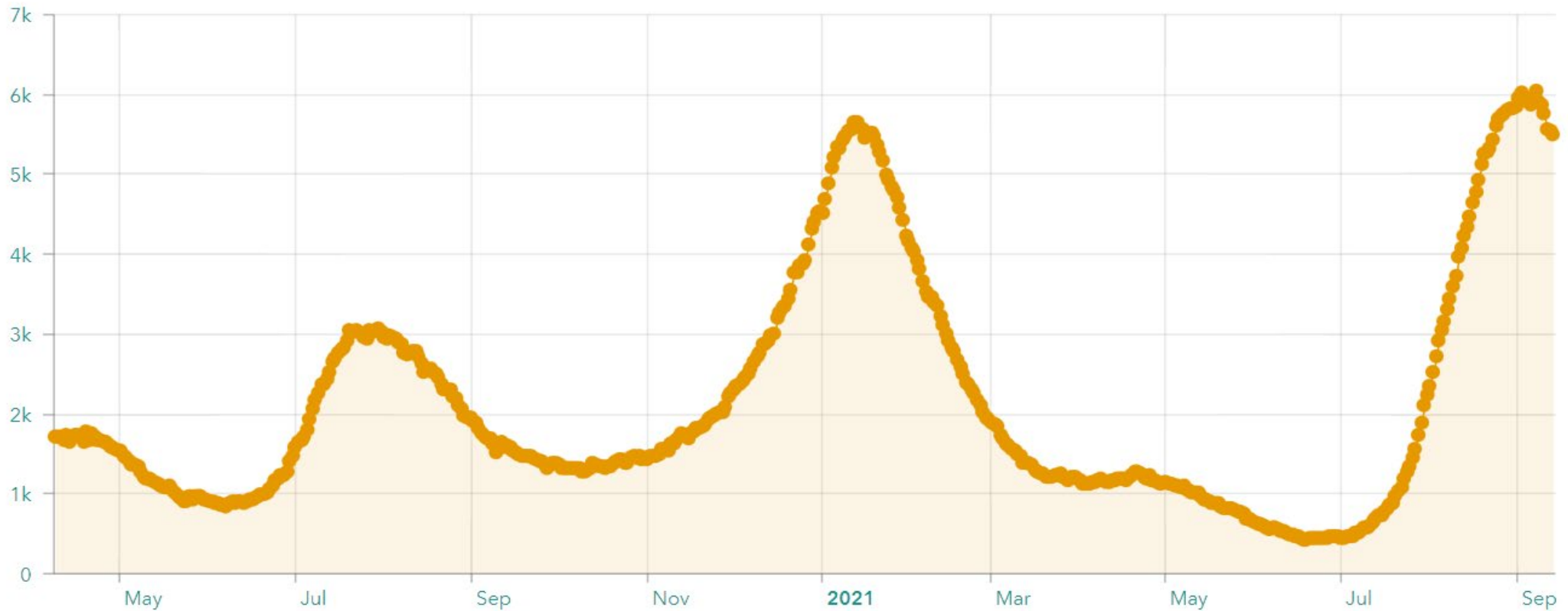


COVID Deaths

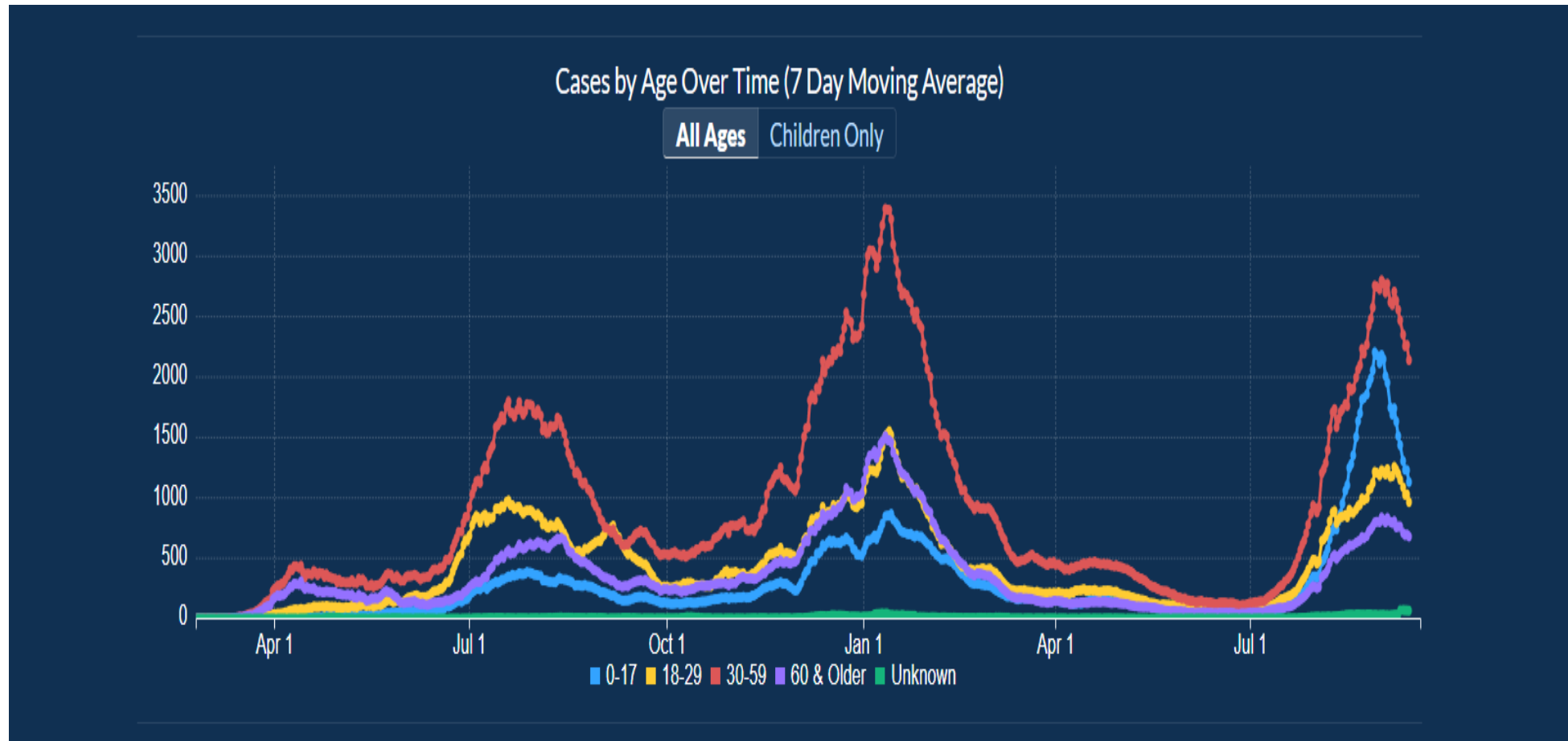


COVID-19 Hospitalizations

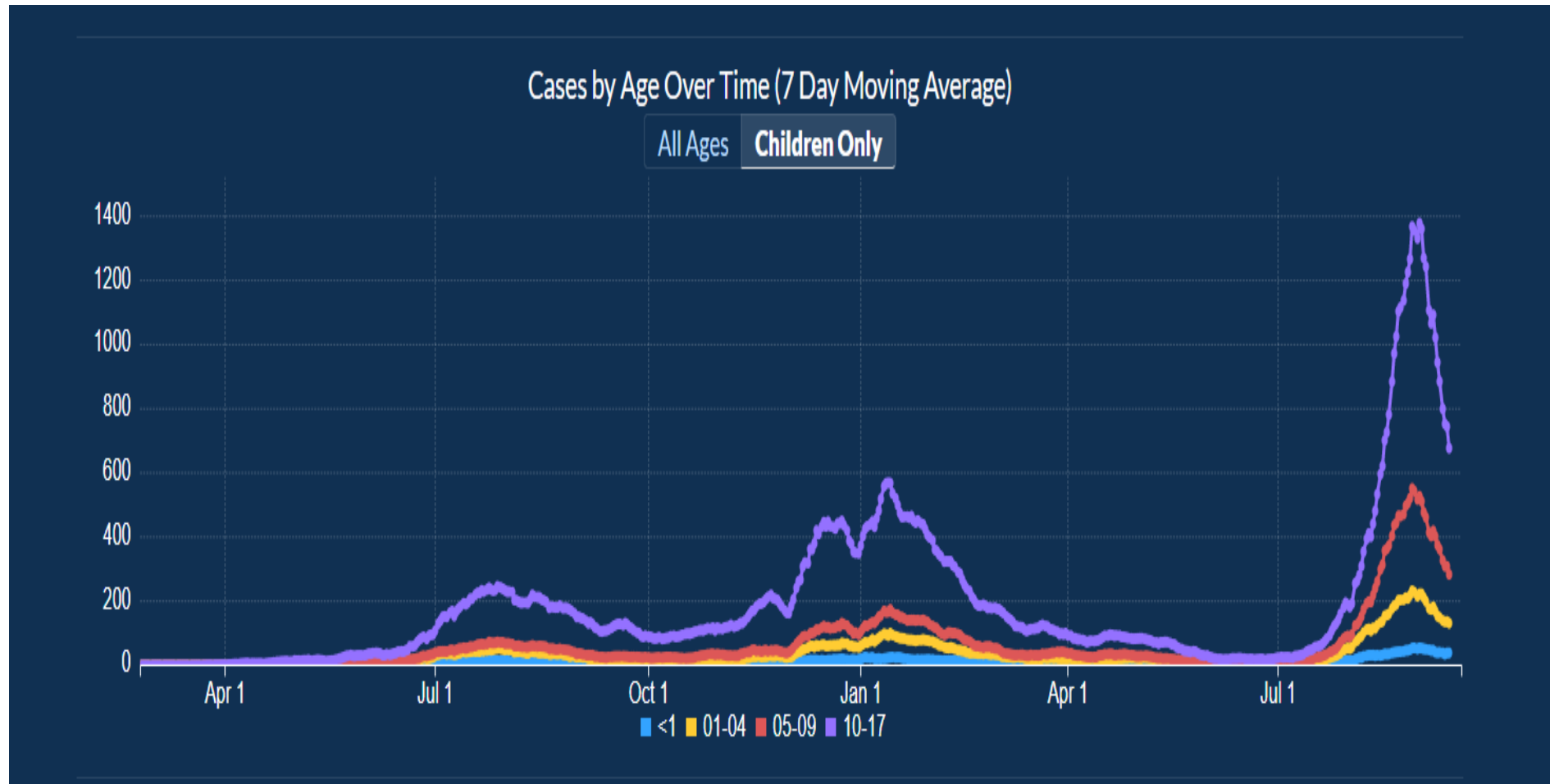
Daily Counts of COVID-19 Patients



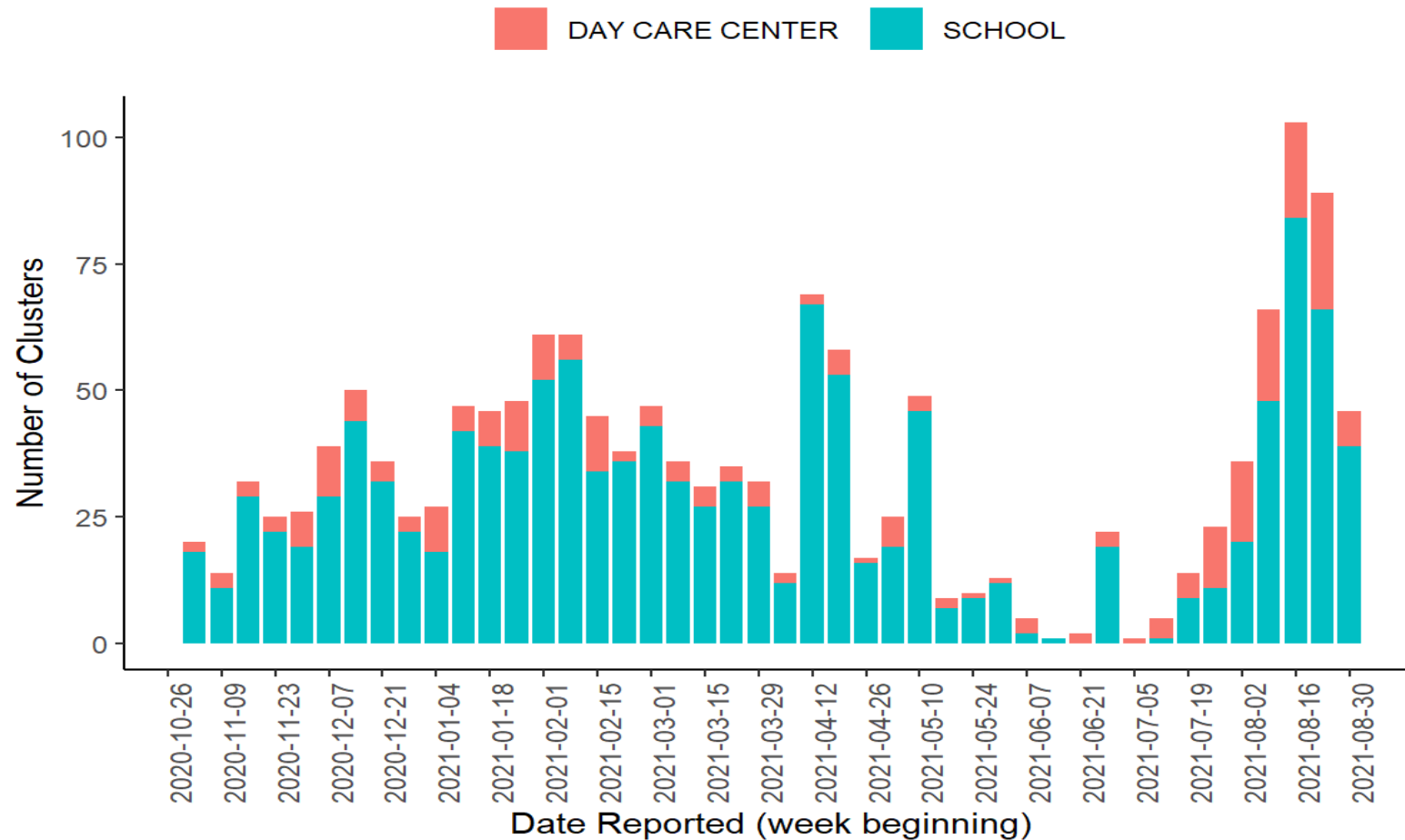
COVID-19 Cases by Age Group



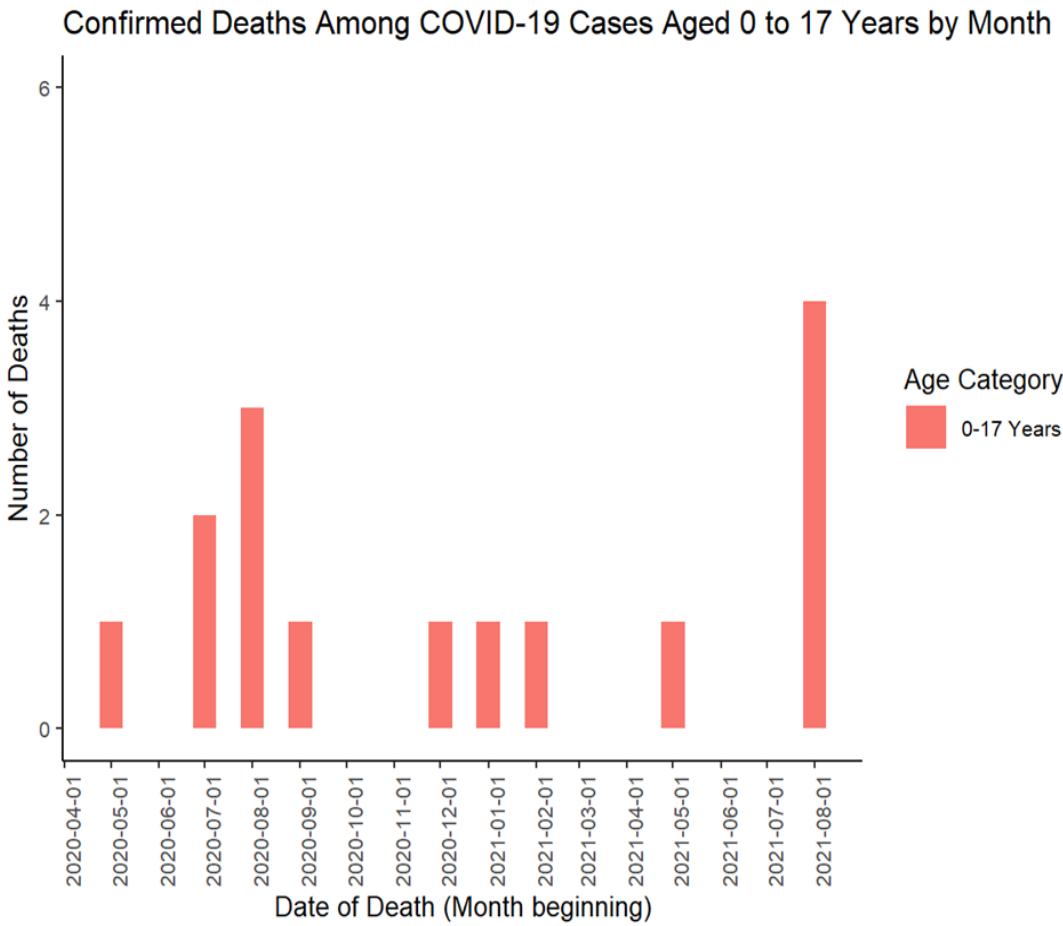
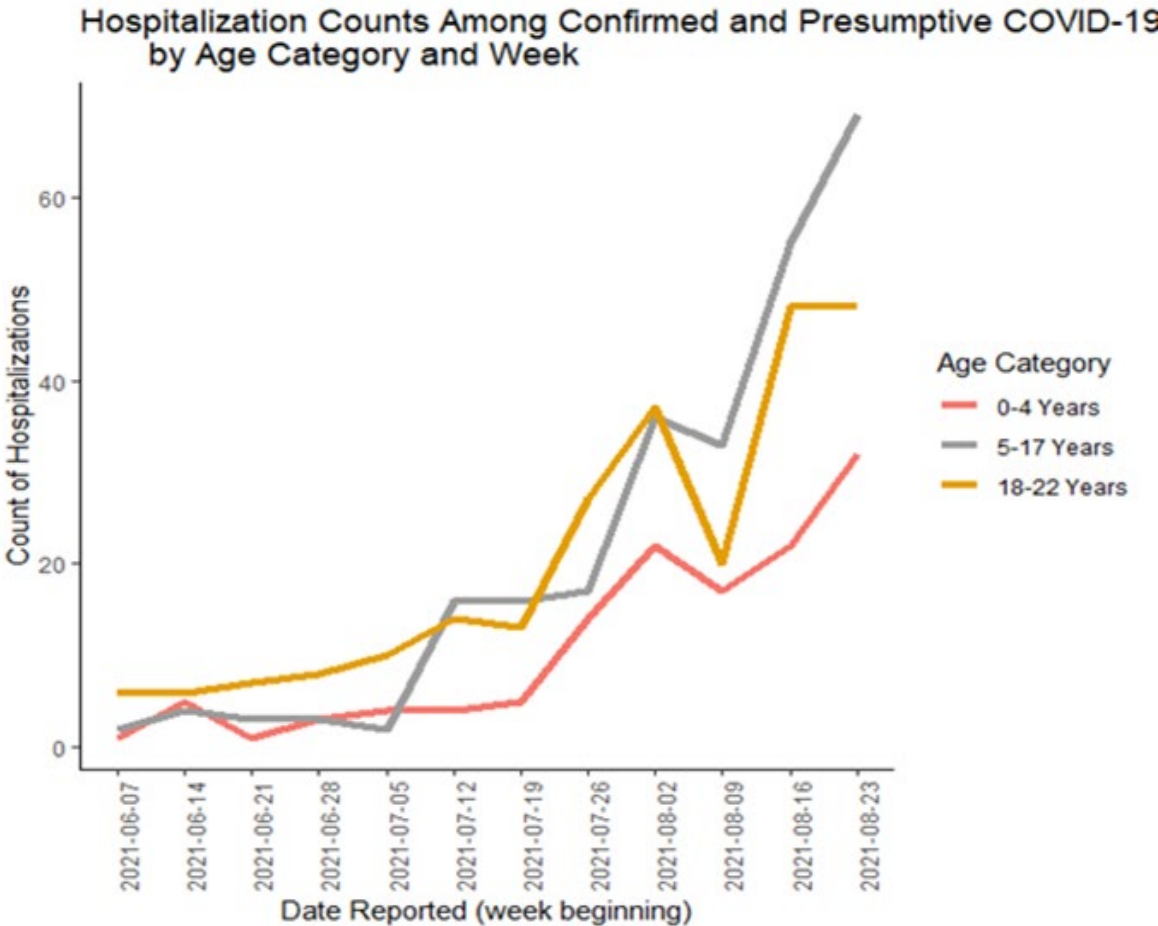
COVID-19 in Children (by Age Group)



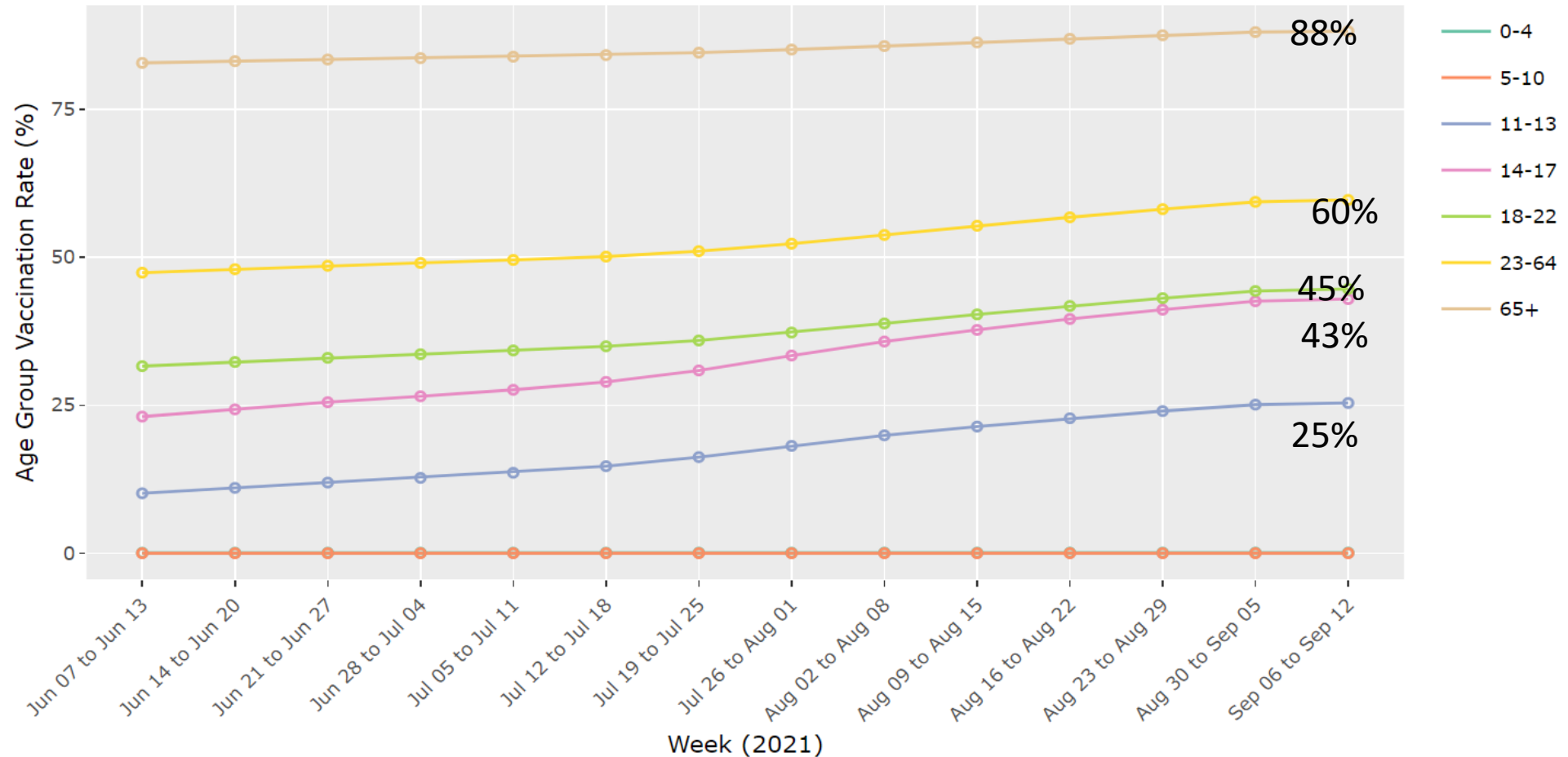
COVID Outbreaks in K-12 Schools



COVID-19 Hospitalizations & Deaths Among Children



Vaccination Rates by Age Group



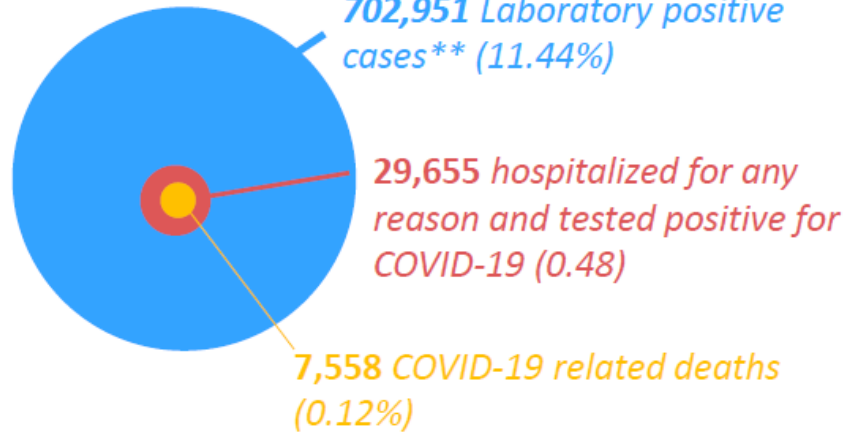
COVID-19 Infection Among Non-vaccinated and Fully Vaccinated* Individuals in Georgia

From January 02 – September 07, 2021

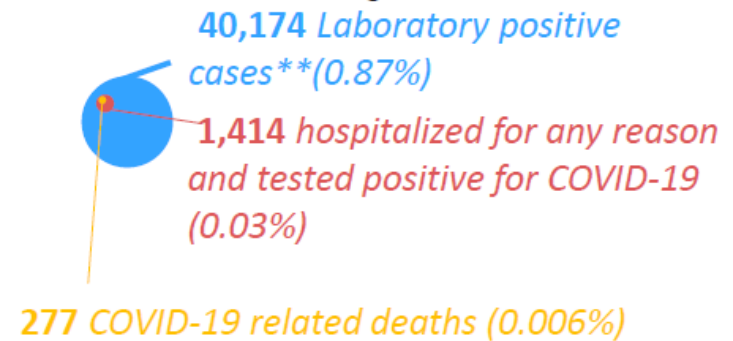
**An individual is considered fully vaccinated if it has been at least 14 days (2 weeks) since the completion of the COVID-19 vaccination series (two doses in a two-dose series OR one dose in a one-dose series).*

***Laboratory positive cases include all PCR and antigen cases reported to DPH during the given time period.*

6,144,074 Non-vaccinated individuals in Georgia



4,565,943 Fully-vaccinated* individuals in Georgia



Summary

- The Delta variant is highly contagious and has spread very rapidly in Georgia over the last 60 days (where about half the population is not vaccinated)
- This 4th wave surpassed previous January peaks in case, hospitalization, and death numbers.
- The most significant epidemiologic pattern is the severe impact of the Delta wave on **school aged children**, resulting in exponential increases in all surveillance indicators.
- We are beginning to see slight declines in COVID surveillance indicators
- Vaccination, masks, social distancing, and staying home when sick or have been exposed are critical for continuing these declines.

Questions

For more information, please contact:

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State Epidemiologist & Chief Science Officer

Georgia Department of Public Health

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COVID Vaccination & Testing

Board of Public Health / Chris Rustin, DrPH, MS, REHS / Sept. 14, 2021

Quick Look Back

In January 2021, all states were under a population-based allocation system due to limitations on the vaccine supply

- Risk based phased approach to vaccine distribution
- Initially vaccine was allocated by hand using spreadsheet
- As the number of providers and demand expanded, allocations grew in complexity
 - To ensure equitability of vaccine, DPH updated their vaccine allocation process to employ a more data driven approach utilizing an allocation model
 - On-hand inventory
 - Administration
 - Vaccine requests
 - Social Vulnerability Index
 - Population demographics

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION (AS OF 3/8/21)

GEORGIA IS NOW VACCINATING

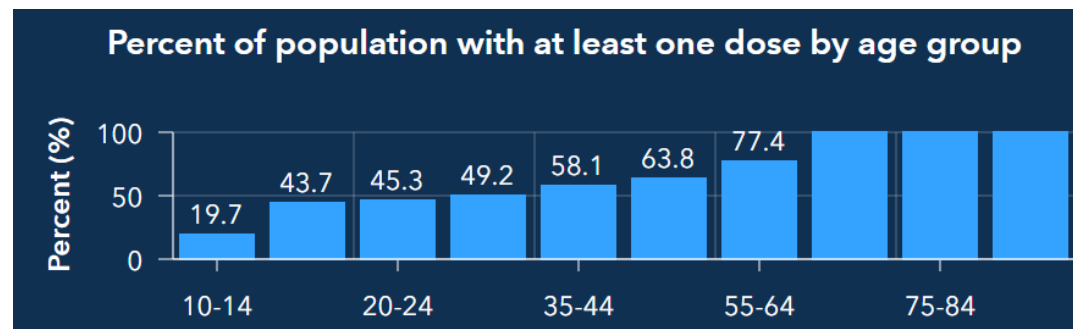
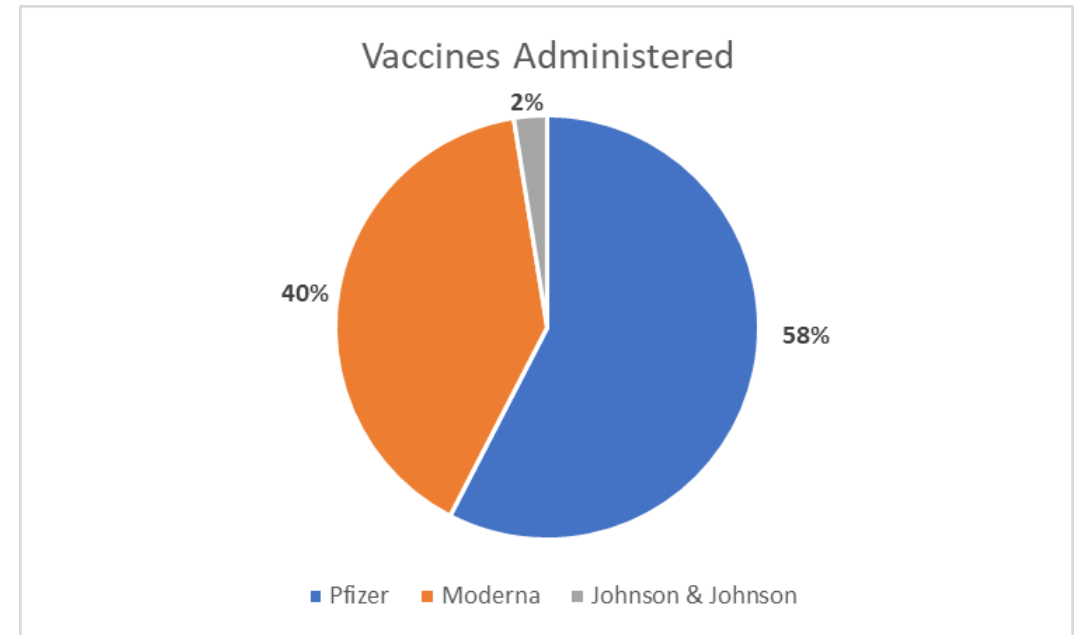
- **Healthcare workers** (physicians, nurses, lab technicians, EMS)
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Fire Personnel**
- **First Responders**
- **Residents and staff of long-term care facilities**
- **Individuals aged 65+ and their caregivers***
- **Educators and staff** (Pre-K, K-12, DECAL licensed or exempt childcare programs)
- **Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers***
- **Parents of children with complex medical conditions**

* Caregivers provide care to people who need assistance with everyday tasks. Care recipients can live in residential or institutional settings, range from children to older adults, and have chronic illnesses or disabling conditions.

Covid Vaccination Statistics

As of 9/14/2021

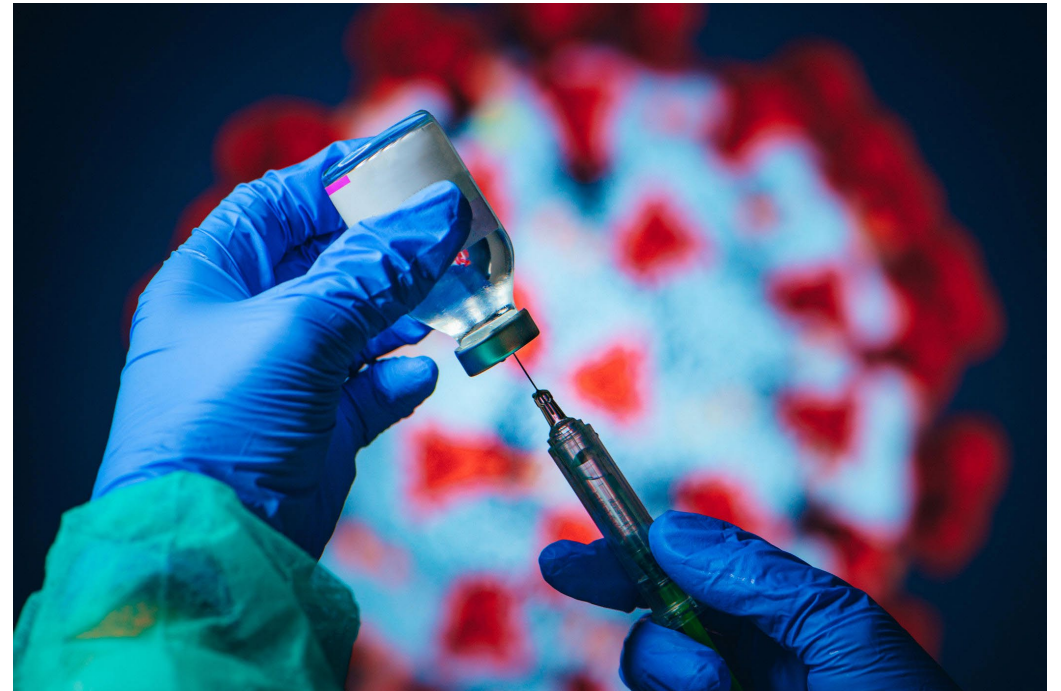
- 10,092,472 vaccines administered
- 97,007/100,000
- 5,490,836 1st dose (53%)
- 4,711,937 Fully vaccinated (45%)



Covid Vaccine Providers

Over 5,000 covid providers statewide

- Local Health Departments
- Hospitals
- Primary care providers
- Pediatricians
- FQHCs
- Pharmacies (Chain and Independent)
- Colleges
- Long-term Care Facilities
- Correctional Facilities
- Dialysis Centers



Provider Recruitment Campaign

DPHs goal is to normalize Covid vaccinations in primary care offices to increase vaccinations rates

- Partnered with the Georgia Medical Associations
- PCPs are the most trusted source of medical information

New Recruitment campaign

- Survey to ascertain PCP challenges
- Webinars w/ CME credit
- Provider outreach and enrollment assistance
- Patient and provider resources
- Small vaccine package logistics/distribution *

Small Vaccine Packaging

Large sized packaging for Pfizer is challenging for small primary care practices

- 1170 or 450 dose minimum packaging size
- Storage limitations

The DPH warehouse logistic team developed a system of repackaging and redistributing Pfizer in smaller quantities

- 120 dose packaging
- 60 dose packaging

Goal is to increase PCP by making the vaccine packaging more manageable in the clinics



Vaccine Outreach Efforts

- Health Equity Council has assisted DPH with vaccination of hard-to-reach communities
- Partnership with the Chamber, Georgia Poultry Federation, and Department of Agriculture/Farmers
- Partnered with Viral Solutions to offer vaccination clinics in jails*
- Provision of transportation services for those with developmental disabilities to and from vaccine clinic sites
- Implementation of nursing strike teams to reach hard to reach populations (homebound, homeless)
- Partnership with Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE) to implement statewide mobile vaccination clinics *

CORE-Mobile Vaccine Events

Vaccine event overview (03/24/21-09/11/21)	
Number of events	2,093
Number of unique sites	639
Number vaccinates administered	54,397

Race		
	Number	Percentage
Black	13982	25.70%
White	13752	25.28%
Asian	3059	5.62%
Native American	314	0.58
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	96	0.18%
Other Race	15396	28.30%
Prefer Not to Say	7652	14.07%
No Response	146	0.27%
Ethnicity		
	Number	Percentage
Hispanic	18761	34.49%
Not Hispanic	27110	49.84%
No Response	8526	15.67%

Age		
	Number	Percentage
12-15	4579	8.42%
16-29	11913	21.90%
30-39	10952	20.13%
40-49	12236	22.49%
50-64	11715	21.54%
65-84	2742	5.04%
85+	181	0.33%
No Response	79	0.15%

Jails and Correctional Facilities

DPH assisted several correctional facilities with becoming covid vaccine providers throughout the state

State corrections contracted with a vaccine vendor to assist with vaccinations

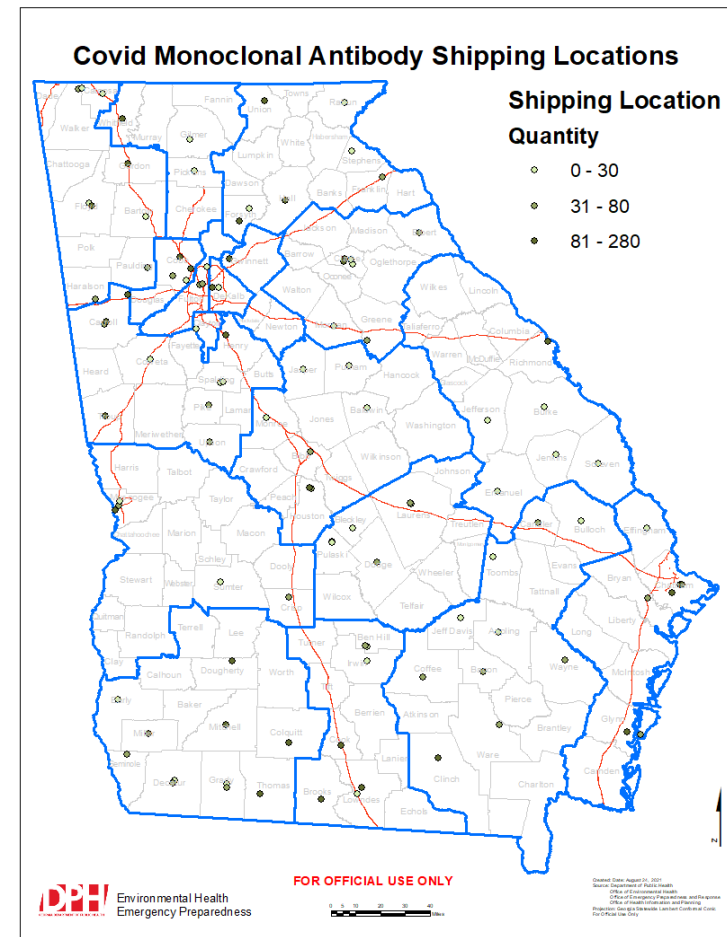
- As of July 16th, 29,000 inmates fully vaccinated per BOC

DPH contracted with a vendor to prioritize local jails for vaccinations and they are now working with Corrections for State facilities

- 13,920 inmates vaccinated
- 310 staff vaccinated

Monoclonal Antibodies

- Monoclonal antibodies (mAb) are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful antigens such as viruses
- mAb treatment may help people who:
 - Have a positive COVID-19 test, and had symptoms for 10 days or less
 - Are at high risk of getting more serious symptoms
- DPH is collaborating with DCH to support existing mAB sites across the state
- **NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR VACCINATION**



Covid Testing

DPH testing sites at LHDs

DPH brought on Mako Medical to assist LHDs with testing operations across the state so they could focus on vaccinations

- 43 LHD or Regional SPOCs

Due to the Delta surge and pressure placed on hospital ERs for testing, DPH brought on an additional testing vendor, **LTS**, to stand up SPOCs on hospital campuses

- 16 SPOCs associated with hospitals
- 5 additional SPOCS by 9/17

Private sector testing sites

- Walgreens (Federal program)
- Urgent Care Facilities

COVID-19 Testing i				
	Total PCR/ Molecular	PCR/Molecular Reported Today	Total Antigen	Total Antibody (Serology)
Number of Tests	11,004,321	104,403	3,011,475	614,443
Number of Positive Tests	1,158,426	17,931	300,226	150,028
% Positive	10.5%	17.2%	10.0%	24.4%

Questions

For more information, please contact:

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Senior Advisor to the Commissioner

Incident Commander-Vaccine Planning/Logistics

Chatham County-Public Health Administrator

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Communications Update

Board of Public Health / Nancy Nydam, Director of Communications / Sept.14, 2021

COVID-19 Communications Overview

Statewide communications efforts were developed for **public, provider, and partner collaboration**

Traditional news releases, interviews, news conferences

New tactics, tools, and technologies

Website redesign to include guidance and information

Daily interactive data reports including the number of tests, confirmed cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccines administered by county and demographics

Where It All Began

Testing
Contact tracing
Prevention



COVID-19
CONTACT TRACING

Answer
the
Call.
GET TESTED.

dph.georgia.gov

DPH! Healthy Georgia
Collaborative

Beginning June 2020:
Contact tracing, testing, and general COVID-19 guidance collateral was deployed via digital and print partnerships with MARTA and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



Beginning February 2021:
Digital video boards at the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport were used to display COVID-19 prevention messaging, with over 56M+ estimated impressions

I Said Yes to COVID Vaccine

COVID VACCINE

I SAID YES!
SO I CAN STAY IN MY CLASSROOM.

I SAID YES!
SO I CAN KEEP WORKING.

I SAID YES!
SO I CAN HUG MY GRANDCHILD AGAIN.




dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine **DPH**



COVID VACCINE

I SAID YES!

TO GET BACK TO THIS ATLANTA TRADITION.



dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine **DPH**
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Web and Social Media

Georgia Department of Public Health ✓
September 2 at 1:54 PM · 🌐

Hey Dawg Nation, are you ready to beat Clemson and #COVID19? Coach Kirby Smart is asking all Dawgs to join him and say "YES" to life-saving vaccines. Sic' em!

[#GoDawgs Georgia Football](#)



Eric Jens and 79 others · 8 Co
Like Comment

7:11 GaDeptPublicHealth 8,666 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

GaDeptPublicHeal... · 2d
Keep you and your loved ones safe from #COVID19 by getting the vaccine. #SaidYES

Learn more from the CDC: ow.ly/nwie50G2zgc

Georgia Department of Public Health ✓
★ Favorites · 8 hrs · 🌐

The biggest benefit of saying " YES " to the #COVID19 vaccine: their peace of mind. By being vaccinated, you have a much lower chance of spreading the virus to someone who could become seriously ill or die from #COVID19. When YOU get vaccinated EVERYONE benefits.

🔗 · See original · Rate this translation

Diga "sí" a las vacunas contra COVID-19.

Programe la cita para vacunarse. dph.ga.gov/covid-vaccine
vaccinefinder.org

#YoDijeSiGA

DPH GEORGIA DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH

▼ About DPH ▼ Health Topics ▼ Vital Records ▼ Women and Children ▼ Immunization ▼ Environmental Health ▼ Epidemiology

ALERT: Vaccine Approval

The FDA approved the first COVID-19 vaccine, Pfizer-BioNTech, for individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine continues under EUA for individuals 12 - 15 years of age and for a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. [Learn more](#)

our mission

- prevent disease, injury & disability
- promote health & well-being
- prepare for & respond to disasters

Georgia Department of Public Health

COVID vaccination is one of our best tools to stop the spread of illness and help us get back to doL. See More

COVID-19 Testing COVID-19 Guidance

TOP POSTS #gadph

DO

- Wear it whenever you are in public settings
- Make sure it covers your nose + mouth
- Wash after each use

WEAR a MASK

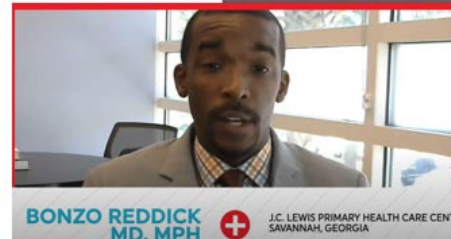
DO NOT

- Use for children 2 and under
- Use surgical masks or other PPE intended for health care workers

DPH Visit the COVID-19 Information Center.

Ask An Expert Video Series

- COVID-19 and Variants
- Why Get a COVID Vaccine?
- COVID Vaccination for Children
- Women and Vaccination
- COVID Vaccine and Side Effects
- COVID Vaccination (Español)



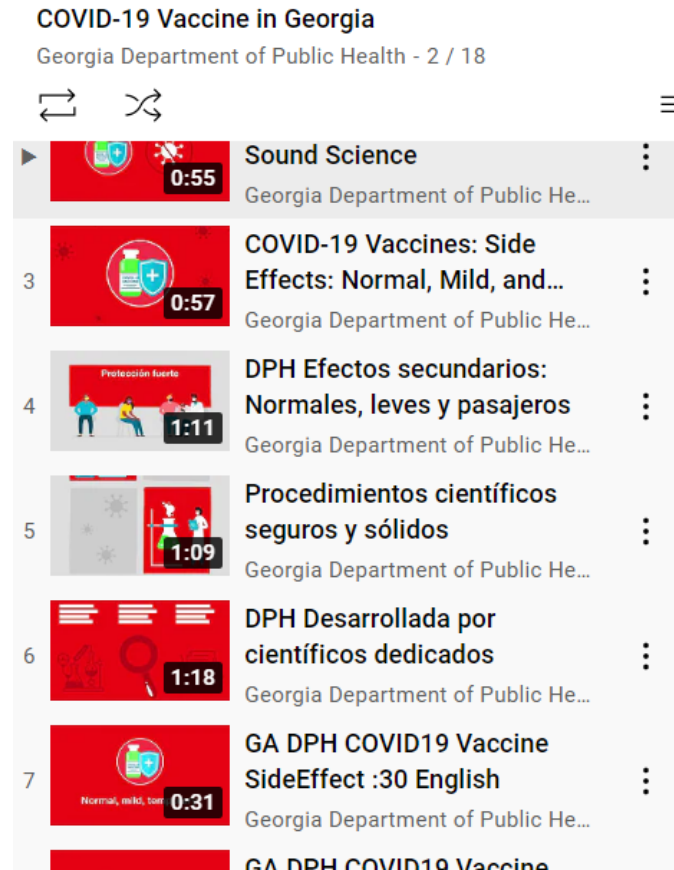
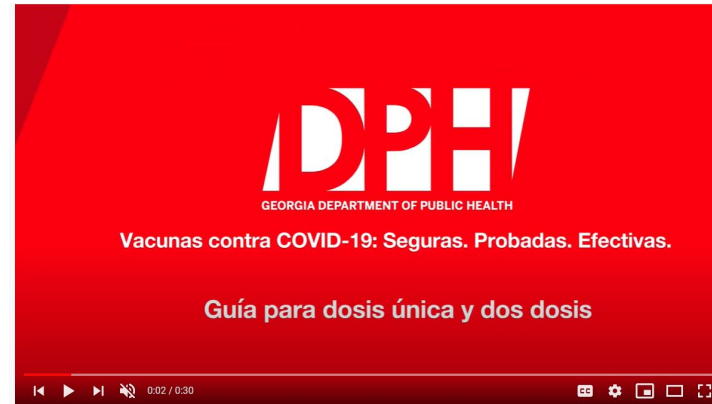
Videos to Address Questions and Concerns

Created a multiple video series to address resident COVID-19 questions and concerns

The "Vaccines Explained" animated series in English and Spanish

The "Contact Tracing Facts" animated series in English and Spanish

"Know Before You Go"



Print Collateral



EVEN HEROES NEED COVID-19 VACCINE

Our best shot at ending COVID begins with YOU!

Protect yourself. Protect your patients.

dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine



VACUNA CONTRA EL COVID

¡IDI QUE SI!

La vacuna contra el COVID es una de las mejores formas de ponerle alto al contagio de la enfermedad y a la vez nos ayuda a todos a regresar a las actividades que tanto extrañamos.

- La vacuna contra el COVID es segura.
- La vacuna contra el COVID no te dará COVID 19.
- La vacuna contra el COVID no puede cambiar el ADN.
- La vacuna contra el COVID no te dará COVID 19 pero no te protegerá de otros tipos de COVID 19.
- La vacuna contra el COVID no te dará COVID 19 pero no te protegerá de otros tipos de COVID 19.

Los síntomas del COVID 19 duran uno o dos días.

DOLOR DE CABEZA ESCALOFRÍOS

COVID-19 Vaccines

Myth: During pregnancy, infants cannot gain antibodies from their mothers.

Truth: There is evidence from several studies that antibodies can be passed from mother to baby during the placental transfer. There is limited evidence that breastfeeding can confer antibodies to the infant.

Myth: Women must receive COVID-19 vaccination a certain trimester.

Truth: The CDC recommends all women get vaccinated as soon as possible to combat the threat of ongoing COVID-19 transmission in the US.

Myth: There is no system to monitor pregnant women for side effects after receiving COVID-19 vaccination.

Truth: Over 100,000 pregnant women are contributing to V-Safe, the CDC's vaccination surveillance app. V-Safe shows short-term side effects such as redness at injection site, and for pregnant women, similar to non-pregnant women.

Myth: Pregnant women need a note from their healthcare provider before receiving a vaccine.

Truth: All women, regardless of status, are receiving vaccines the same way. Women do not need a note from their healthcare provider for COVID-19 vaccines.

Myth: COVID-19 vaccines cause changes in menstruation and menopause.

Truth: Many factors can affect menstruation, like stress, sleep, changes in weight, infections, and many diseases. There is no current evidence that vaccines directly cause menstrual irregularities or early menopause.

Myth: Vaccination is linked to miscarriages.

Truth: The CDC's V-Safe monitoring vaccine miscarriage risk to be no increase in miscarriage.

For more information, visit:

- dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine
- cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html



What you need to know about COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE)

Q: What is COVID-19?
A: COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Since COVID-19 first appeared in late 2019, there have been changes and mutations to the virus that causes the infection. Variants such as the Delta variant are much more contagious and spread easier than the original virus.

Q: How does COVID-19 spread?
A: COVID-19 spreads the same way the flu and other respiratory diseases spread, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?
A: People with COVID-19 have had symptoms ranging from mild to severe. Symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. COVID-19 symptoms include:
• Fever / chills
• Mouth / sore throat
• Loss of taste or smell
• Shortness of breath
• Fatigue
• Headache
• Muscle or joint pain
• Diarrhea or constipation
• Skin rashes
• Red, swollen, or irritated eyes
• Sore throat
• Cough
• Loss of consciousness
• Unexplained bluish lips or face

Q: Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?
A: COVID-19 vaccines are currently available at various locations. For more information, visit dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine or vaccines.gov.

Q: Who should be vaccinated?
A: Vaccines are currently available for people 12 years of age and older. Vaccines may require insurance or ID.

Q: What are the side effects of the COVID vaccine?
A: Common known side effects of the COVID vaccine include:
• Sore arm
• Fatigue
• Headache
• Muscle or joint pain
• Mild fever
• Swelling at the injection site
• Allergic reactions (rare)

Q: Are there other things I should do to protect myself from COVID-19?
A: The best protection against COVID-19 is vaccination. In addition, the same measures that prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses are very important for all diseases:
• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
• Stay 6 feet (about two arm lengths) away from yourself + others in public settings.
• Wear a face covering that covers your nose + mouth when you're in public settings.

COVID-19 You've tested: POSITIVE

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- Self-isolation is mandatory by order of the Georgia Department of Public Health. dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact. You **MUST** stay home to get medical care.
- Notify contacts of your illness + ask them to get tested at dph.georgia.gov/contact.
- Monitor your symptoms - If symptoms get worse or health care provider dph.georgia.gov/contact.
- While at home:
 - Separate yourself from others, keep 6 feet + others, use a bathroom no one else uses, or in your home.
 - Wear a face covering around others + if facilities.
 - Separate yourself from others, keep 6 feet + others, use a bathroom no one else uses, or in your home.
 - Wash your hands often with soap + water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.
 - Avoid sharing dishes, drinking glasses, towels + bedding.
 - Frequently clean "high touch" surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, TV remotes, etc.
 - Monitor yourself for symptoms.
- Remain under home isolation for 72 hours without using medicine.

For more information about COVID-19, visit dph.georgia.gov/covid-19.

SAY YES TO BEATING COVID-19. VACCINATE!

COVID-19 You've tested: NEGATIVE

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

If you test negative for COVID-19, you are not currently infected with the virus. However, you probably were not infected at the time you were tested or you did not have enough virus in your system to be detected. The test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing.

Take preventive measures to protect yourself + others from becoming infected with COVID-19:

- Practice social distancing - keep 6 feet between yourself + others.
- Wash your hands often with soap + water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Wash your hands often with soap + water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.
- Avoid sharing dishes, drinking glasses, towels + bedding.
- Frequently clean "high touch" surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, TV remotes, etc.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms.

COVID VACCINE SAY YES!

Help end the pandemic by "saying YES" to COVID vaccination. COVID vaccine is tested, safe and effective. Protect your family and friends - and get back to doing all the things you've missed.

To find a vaccine location near you visit dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine

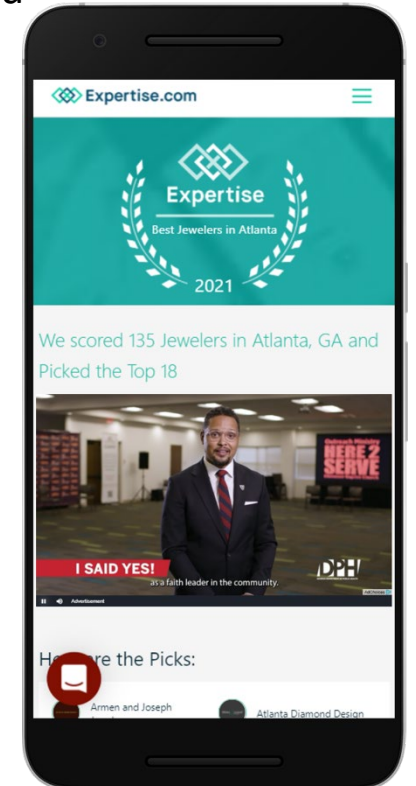
DPH

TV, Radio, Digital Mobile, Transit



Beginning May 2021:
15s and 30s commercials
aired on WSB-TV and
WXIA-TV, most notably
during 14 days of the
Summer Olympics

Radio buys with Georgia
Association of Broadcasters,
Radio One, iHeart Media
(English and Spanish)



Say "Yes" Summer Series

 **2K+**
Event Attendees

Through **7** events
in collaboration with **24** partners

 **315**
Vaccinations

With live vaccinations
occurring over **40** hours

 **457.1K+**
Social Impressions

With **3.5K**
visits to sayyessummer.com

SAVANNAH



Savannah Mayor
Van Johnson visits

ATHENS



Local bluegrass band entertains
at the Twilight Festival

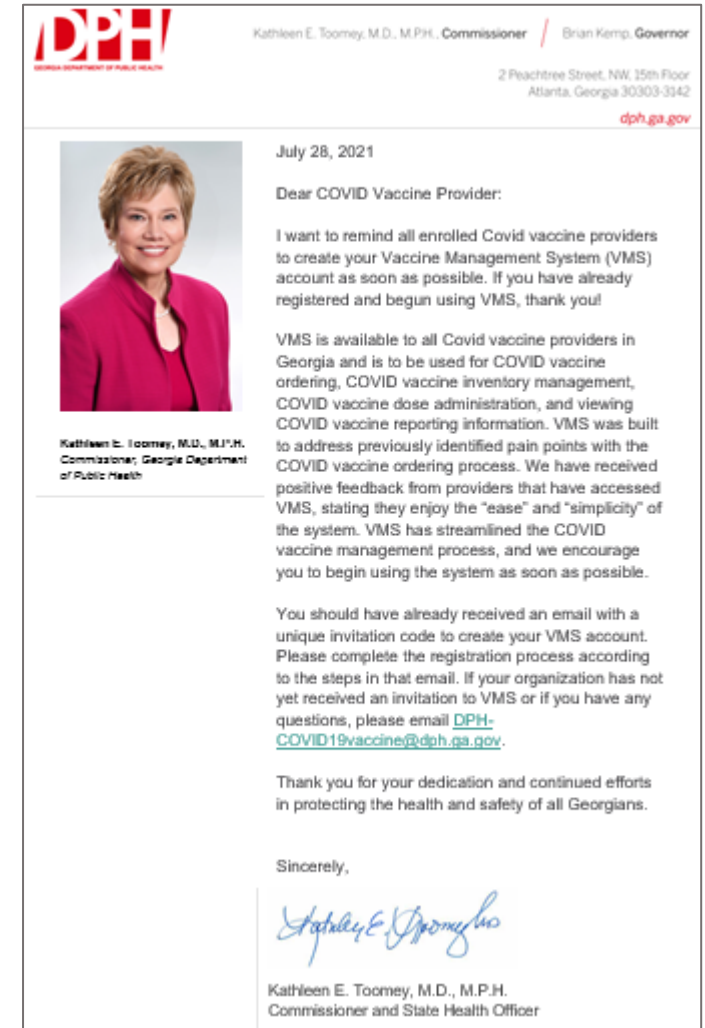
ATLANTA



In front of the public art display
at Georgia Aquarium

COVID-19 Communications for Providers

- Multiple letters from the Commissioner to providers sharing key information about COVID-19, testing, vaccination
- Held weekly provider webinars and shared bi-weekly updates to communicate rapid changes throughout stages of the vaccine rollout process
- Collaborated with the Georgia Poison Center to produce a provider-specific text alert line to share new COVID-19 research and guidance
- Communicated GRITS (Georgia Registry for Immunization Transactions and Services) and Vaccine Management System (VMS) features to encourage timely data reporting and reliable COVID-19 data models



COVID-19 Communications for Partners

- Created and provided social media copy and creative, messaging guidance, and educational toolkits to partners to align messaging and brand in the public eye
- Hosted weekly PIO meetings with Georgia's 18 Health Districts to discuss important updates, share best practices, and reinforce a cohesive approach to COVID-19 communications
- Compiled and analyzed weekly PIO COVID-19 Situation Reports to increase visibility across the state and determine areas for additional support
- Conducted 15 webinars with 1.3K+ attendees for businesses, providers, and medical associations, discussing COVID-19 guidance updates and communications best practices
- Shared bi-monthly COVID-19 newsletters with 130+ partners to share with their communities

Questions

For more information, please contact:

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Director of Communications

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2021 Legislative Session

Board of Public Health / Megan Andrews, J.D. / Sept. 14, 2021

House Bill 146

Paid Parental Leave for Eligible State Employees

- All full-time state employees are eligible for paid parental leave for qualifying life events after six continuous months of employment regardless of whether the employee is eligible for paid or unpaid leave under federal law.

House Bill 156

Sharing of Information and Reporting of Cyber Attacks

- Requires governmental agencies and utilities to report any cyber-attacks to the director of emergency management and homeland security.

House Bill 287

Tobacco and Vapor Products in Course of Instruction

- Includes vapor products during instruction regarding tobacco, alcohol and drugs required for all students in grades K–12.
- DPH is to assist in the development of the course of study.

House Bill 307

Georgia Telehealth Act

- Revises the Georgia Telehealth Act and authorizes health care providers to provide telemedicine services from home.
- Allows for audio-only care under certain circumstances.
- Prohibits the requirement that patients have in-person consultation before receiving telemedicine services.
- Prohibits separate deductibles for telemedicine services.
- Prohibits requirement that health care providers use a specific telehealth platform or vendor.
- Prohibits additional restrictions on prescribing medications through telemedicine.
- Requires documentation by healthcare providers for telemedicine services that equals or exceeds in-person consultation.

House Bill 346

Jarom's Act

- Requires all emergency medical services personnel to be trained on congenital adrenal hyperplasia, and paramedics will obtain appropriate training regarding administration of hydrocortisone sodium succinate, based on rules and regulations established by DPH.
- All paramedics who administer hydrocortisone sodium succinate must make a printed or electronically stored report available to the licensed ambulance service which transports the patient.

House Bill 567

Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee

- Creates the Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations to the department when a new disorder is added to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel.
- When DPH approves a new disorder after recommendation by the Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee, DPH is required to submit a budget request to the Office of Planning and Budget before the General Assembly's next legislative session seeking appropriations to cover the addition of the new disorder being added to the newborn screening system.
- Requires health care providers, health care facilities, and pharmacies to provide access to the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) to records within 30 days of request.

Senate Bill 32

Personal Records of State and Federal Employees

- Expands the information that is exempt from public disclosure to include the public employee's personal mobile or wireless telephone number.

Senate Bill 46

Certain Medical Personnel to Administer Vaccines

- Authorizes DPH to release deidentified data from the Low THC Oil Patient Registry to government entities and other entities for research. (HB 450)
- Provides licensure and certification of emergency medical services personnel, paramedics, and cardiac technicians previously convicted of a felony. (HB 275)
- Provides for training for firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, paramedics, and cardiac technicians in institutions under the control of the Department of Corrections. (HB 275)

Senate Bill 46 (continued)

- Authorizes emergency medical technicians and cardiac technicians to administer vaccines during public health emergencies upon the order of a duly licensed physician.
- Provides for vaccine information to third parties under certain conditions.
- Revises certain provisions relating to the administration of vaccines under vaccine protocol agreements; allows pharmacists to administer any vaccine on the adult vaccine schedule and any vaccine administered under a public health emergency to individuals 13+.

House Resolution 52

House Study Committee on Childhood Lead Exposure

- Committee is tasked with studying the full effect of lead exposure on children and make recommendations on how Georgia can effectively prevent adverse outcomes.
- The study committee has met twice, with plans to meet twice more.
- A compiled report with recommendations will be made.

Senate Resolution 151

Senate Sickle Cell Anemia Study Committee

- The committee is tasked with conducting studies of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems related to sickle cell anemia and recommend any action or legislation they deem necessary. Specifically, the committee will determine the needs of the residents of this state with respect to prevention and treatment of sickle cell anemia and identify sources of funding to address such needs.
- The study committee has met once to establish recommendations for Sickle Cell Anemia in Georgia.

Amended Budget Fiscal Year 2021

- Increase funds to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$1,000 to full-time state employees with current salaries less than \$80,000. *\$4,878,701*
- Provide funds for a chief medical officer, a deputy commissioner of public health, a chief data officer, a senior programmer, and a financial manager to support the agency with COVID-19 pandemic response as well as provide ongoing public health leadership. *\$485,997*
- Grady Regional Coordinating Center for the continued coordination of emergency room use. *\$289,000*

Amended Budget Fiscal Year 2021

- Increase funds to replace and modernize the public health surveillance system to improve current COVID-19 pandemic response as well as future epidemiologic surveillance capacity and redirect \$11,100,000 in 5- year issued bonds from 2016 and 2017 for the Clinical Billing Information Technology System to be used for the implementation of a new vaccine management system. *\$27,100,000*
- Provide funds for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to support the increased utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic. *\$15,442,591*

Budget Fiscal Year 2022

- Increased funds for newborn screening of Krabbe disease. Screening is set to begin September 21, 2021. *\$1,017,109*
- Increased funds for feminine hygiene products for public health facilities – health districts placed their orders in early July. *\$200,000*
- Added funds for a chief medical officer, a deputy commissioner of public health, and a chief data officer to support the agency with COVID-19 pandemic response and ongoing public health leadership. *\$857,986*
- Increased funds for Georgia CORE for screening for leading cancers, care coordination and navigation, and prevention education. *\$300,000*
- Increased funds for the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia. *\$365,000*

Budget Fiscal Year 2022

- Increased funds for a nurse peer assistance program to support nurses recovering from substance use. *\$150,000*
- Increased funds to support Grady Memorial Hospital's efforts to continue the coordination of emergency room use in the 13-county metro Atlanta area. *\$506,000*
- Increased funds for the second year of a three-year pilot for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for individuals at risk of HIV. *\$85,650*
- Public Health Multi-Projects: \$435,000 for 5 years at 5.07%: Fund improvements and renovations to public health district office buildings and labs, statewide. *\$435,000*

Questions

For more information, please contact:

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Next Meeting

The next Board of Public Health meeting is TBD