

Georgia OEMS Update – COVID-19, etc

OEMS / Friday, 01/08/2021



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

3

Agenda

- Epidemiology Report
- Vaccine Updates
- Operational Updates
- Questions

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

4

Epidemiology Report



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

5

Epidemiology Report – Dr. Cherie Drenzek – graphs as of 01/07/2021
<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

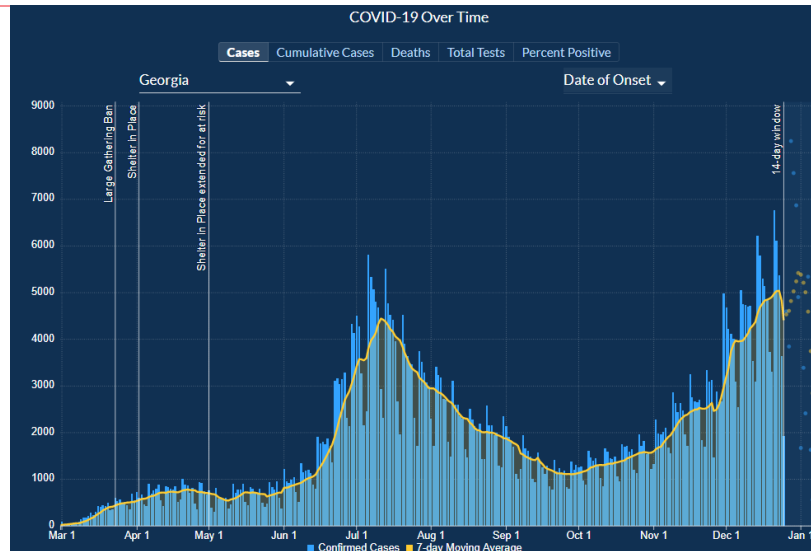
Confirmed Cases ⓘ	Confirmed Deaths ⓘ	Hospitalizations ⓘ	ICU Admissions ⓘ
609,868	10,100	43,796	7,642
Antigen Positive Cases ⓘ		Probable Deaths ⓘ	
113,762		1,130	

COVID-19 Testing ⓘ			
	Total PCR/ Molecular	PCR/Molecular Reported Today	Total Antibody (Serology)
Number of Tests	5,569,613	46,392	410,091
Number of Positive Tests	581,928	7,621	48,102
% Positive	10.4%	16.4%	11.7%

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

6

Cases Over Time (By date of onset)



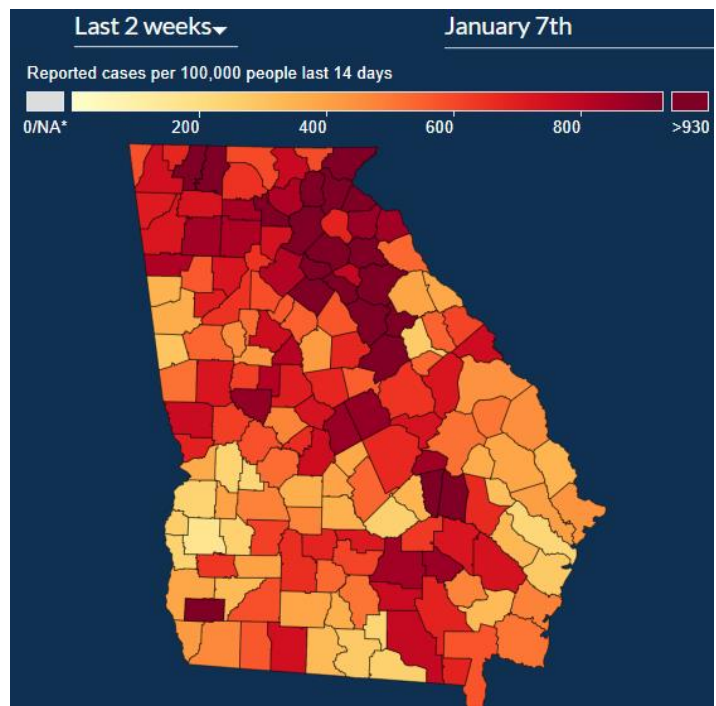
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

7

Reported cases per 100,000 people last 14 days - as of 01/07/2021

Georgia - January 07

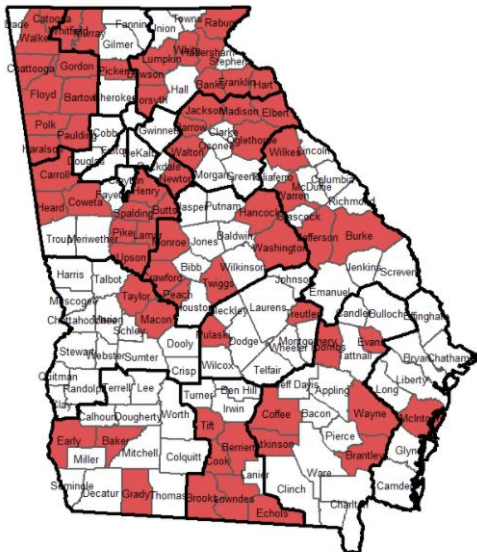
Cases (last 2 weeks): 78,306
 Cases per 100k (last 2 weeks): 723
 Cases (total): 609,868
 Cases per 100k (total): 5629
 Population: 10,833,472



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

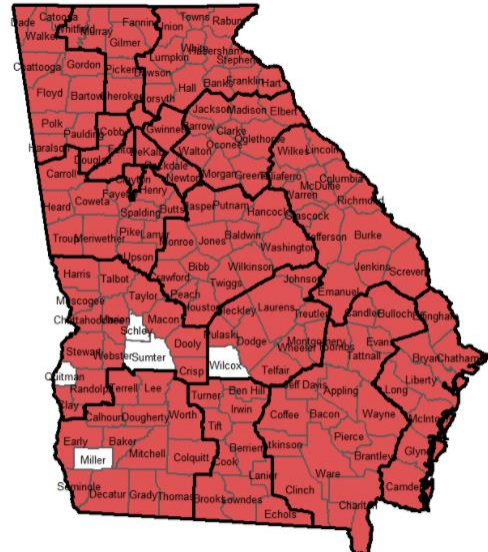
8

11/14 to 11/27



Counties of High Transmission Indicators represent Counties with [14-day cases rate is > 100 cases/100,000 county residents (> 5 cases during this period)] AND [14-day average % positive PCR tests > 10% (> 20 total tests performed during this period)]

12/19 to 01/01



Counties of High Transmission Indicators represent Counties with [14-day cases rate is > 100 cases/100,000 county residents (> 5 cases during this period)] AND [14-day average % positive PCR tests > 10% (> 20 total tests performed during this period)]

One Month Apart

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

9

Phase 1a Vaccinations of Healthcare Workers

Initial Phase 1a Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), as of December 3, 2020:

ACIP recommended that, when a COVID-19 vaccine is authorized by FDA and recommended by ACIP, both 1) health care personnel and 2) residents of long-term care facilities (LTCFs) be offered vaccination in the initial phase of the COVID-19 vaccination program (Phase 1a).

Next Steps:

- EMS, under current ACIP recommendations, is considered part of Phase 1a.
- Fire and Law Enforcement are part of 1a+ as of 1/11/2021
- Please contact your district public health emergency preparedness section for information regarding first responder vaccination planning.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

10

Who can give vaccines?

- EMT-Intermediates (PHE only)
- Advanced EMTs (PHE only)
 - Includes students
- Cardiac Technicians (PHE only)
- Paramedics
 - Includes students

**Before you give
a vaccine, get
trained!**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

11

EMTs cannot give vaccines

- But they can sure help at a vaccine site!

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

12

Executive Order 01.07.21.02

- Permitting Emergency Medical Technicians-Intermediates, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, and Cardiac Technicians to administer vaccinations to support the response to COVID-19

ORDERED: That any provision of the laws or regulations of this state, including but not limited to Code Sections 31-11-53 and 31-11-55, that prohibits Emergency Medical Technicians and Cardiac Technicians from administering vaccinations, is hereby suspended to the extent necessary to permit Georgia licensed Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediates, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, and Cardiac Technicians to administer vaccinations under the order of a Georgia licensed physician to support the response to COVID-19. Any such vaccine administration shall be in accordance with the Georgia Department of Public Health guidelines.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

13

We are interested, now what?

- Contact your health district (EC)
- EMS Agencies
- EMS Educational Programs
 - Can give clinical credit for skills/hours

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

14

Health Districts

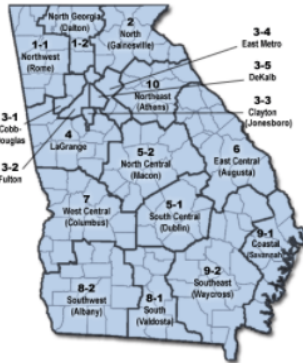
- <https://dph.georgia.gov/about-dph/contact-dph/public-health-districts>

District Health Director
Executive Assistant
Program Manager
Administrator
Clinical Coordinator
EH Director
EC Director
HR Director
MIS Director

Public Health Districts

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) funds, and collaborates with, 18 separate public health districts throughout the state. Each is comprised of one or more of Georgia's 159 [PDF](#) [counties](#) and county health departments.

Click on a district below to visit the district's website. Download the most recent District Directory in .pdf format [PDF](#) [here](#).



Page last updated 03/30/18

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

15

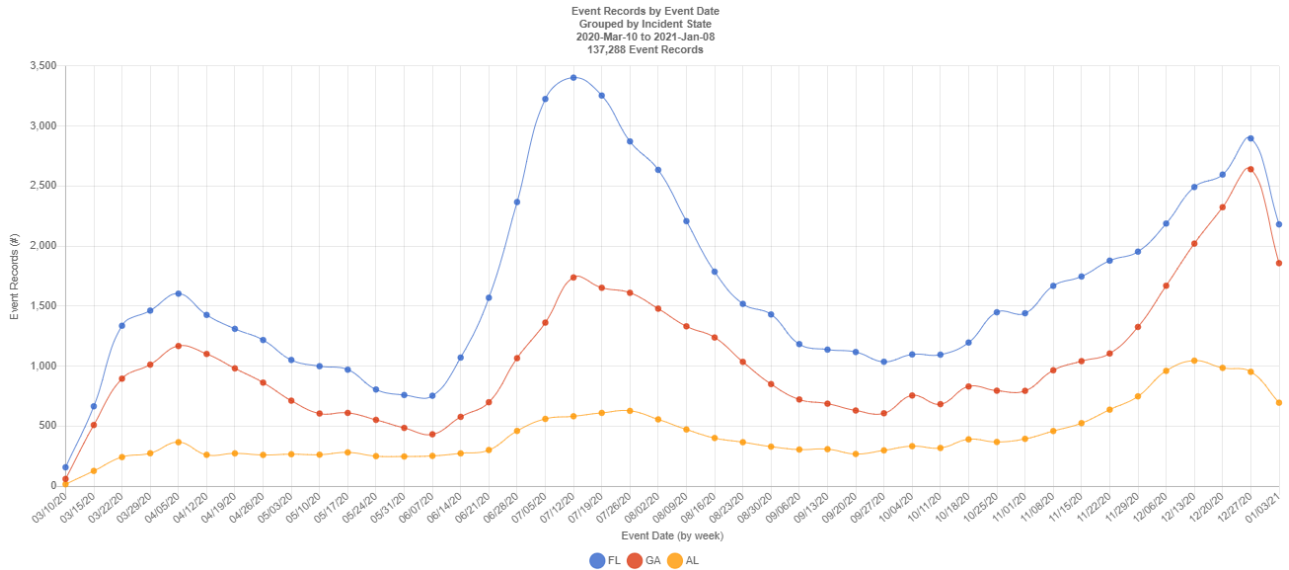
Questions

- Epidemiology
- Vaccinations

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

16

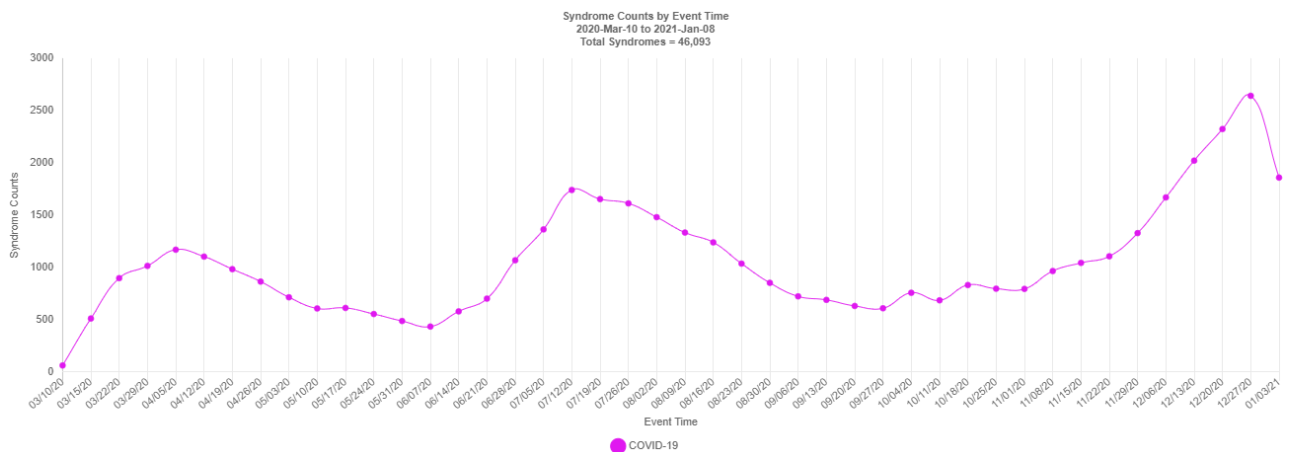
Calculated COVID-19 Syndrome – 3/10/2020 – 01/08/2021, AL, FL, GA



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

17

Calculated COVID-19 Syndrome – 3/10/2020 – 01/08/2021, Just GA



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

18

EMS Operational Updates



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

19

Reminders

- As of 1/08/2020:
 - 2,710 (-232 in last month) Medics without email addresses!
- Renewal season is here!
 - 15,100 still to renew
- Agencies MUST have current rosters.
- There is NO excuse for having out-of-date rosters and NO excuse for saying "I didn't know that medic had expired"

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

20

CLIA and BinaxNOW

- CLIA
 - <https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/ems-licensure-verification-agency-personnel-instructor/ems-agency-licensure/clia>
 - All EMS Agencies are required to have a CLIA Certificate of Waiver
 - “Waived” tests REQUIRE a CLIA Certificate of Waiver

21

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

How to check your CLIA status

- https://qcor.cms.gov/advanced_find_provider.jsp?which=4&backReport=active_CLIA.jsp

The screenshot shows the S&C QCOR website. On the left, a sidebar lists various tools and categories. The 'Tool' section is highlighted, and 'CLIA Laboratory Lookup' is selected. The main content area displays a welcome message and information about hospice complaint surveys.

S&C QCOR
Help | Resources | FAQs | Site Map

Welcome to S&C's Quality, Certification and Oversight Reports (QCOR)

What's New on QCOR?

Full Reports of Hospice Complaint Surveys
Full [survey reports](#) for Hospices with deficiencies cited during State Survey Agency (SA) complaint investigations, as well as survey reports from follow-up surveys resulting from complaint investigations, are now available to view by state in the [Survey Reports section](#). [Survey reports](#) are available for the last three years and include Hospices certified through SAs, as well as Accrediting Organizations.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CMS announced changes to the inspection process on [March 4](#), and [March 23](#), including a new COVID-19 infection control survey. [To view surveys conducted after these announcements, click here.](#)

Attention QCOR users
If you require assistance using the QCOR application, please contact the QCOR Help Desk. For email requests, please use qcorhelp@aplusgov.com. For telephone requests, please use 1-888-673-7328.

[Accessibility Information](#) | [Privacy & Security](#)

Tool

CLIA Laboratory Lookup

Accrediting Organization Performance
Accredited Hospitals with Recent Substantial Deficiencies

Providers & Suppliers
Multi-Provider Reports

Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs)
CLIA Laboratories
Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs)
Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs)
Dialysis Facilities (ESRDs)
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
Home Health Agencies
Hospices
Hospitals
Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID)
Nursing Homes
Outpatient Physical Therapy/Speech Pathology (OPT)
Portable X-ray Suppliers
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs)
Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

22

Search for a CLIA Laboratory

This website provides a listing of CLIA laboratories and other facilities that are certified by the United States Government Department of Health and Human Services under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA), 42 U.S.C. §263a to perform laboratory testing as of the Data Source Date listed below. The certificate type listed corresponds to the complexity of the testing that can be performed by the laboratory.

This website provides demographic information about laboratories, including CLIA number, facility name and address, where the laboratory testing is performed, the type of CLIA certificate, and the date the certificate expires. This list is updated monthly and represents the information in the system at the time of update. For additional information about a particular laboratory, contact the appropriate State Agency or Regional Office.

To search for a Facility, please enter a Facility Name (full or partial name) or a CLIA Identification Number, select a State, or enter a zip code (full or partial zip code with * replacing missing number(s), such as 223**).

Notes: Search is only available for Active CLIA laboratories

Facility Name (or partial name): Search for: Active CLIA Labs ▼

OR

CLIA Identification Number:

OR

State: ▼

City:

OR

Zip Code:

OR

International: ☐ Check this box if you want international labs only

Note: Laboratories applying for a certificate of compliance or accreditation will receive a certificate of registration until compliance is determined.

Certification Type: All ▼

By Exemption Status:

Some states have applied for exemption from the federal regulations for the laboratories in their state. These states have enacted laws relating to laboratory requirements that are equal to or more stringent than CLIA requirements and the State licensure program has been approved by CMS. This exemption may apply to all laboratories in the state (full exemption), or only certain types of laboratories as determined by the state (partial exemption). Currently, Washington State has full exemption and New York State has a partial exemption.

☐ Check this box if you want exempt labs only

[Go Back](#)

[Search](#)

23

If it is good:

CLIA Laboratory Details

Note: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CLIA certifications expiring extended to 31 December 2020.

CLIA Identification Number:

Facility Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Certificate Effective Date: 10/30/2020

Certificate Expiration Date: 10/29/2022

Facility Type: Ambulance

24

BinaxNOW

- <https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/binaxnow-ems>
- Data portal for reporting results is up and running
- Request an allocation through LMS
- You can test:
 - Your staff (clinical and non-clinical)
 - Other public safety personnel in your area
- You MUST report ALL tests (positive, negative, inconclusive)

25

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Georgia Coordinating Center

- Liaison Position open:
 - <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/georgiadph/jobs/2948047/georgia-coordinating-center-liaison?keywords=Georgia&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>
- We will be updating the list of hospitals covered by the GCC
 - Will include more than Region 3
 - You MUST call the GCC if you are transporting to one of these hospitals
 - We will be scheduling trainings for:
 - ▣ EMS Agencies who would be using the GCC
 - ▣ Hospitals who are served by the GCC

26

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Wall Times ("Patient Offload Times")

- **Patient Offload:** is the difference in minutes between the time of the patient arrival at destination (eTimes.11) and the time of patient transfer of care (eTimes.12).
- Starts: Arrival at Destination

eTimes.11 - Patient Arrived at Destination Date/Time
Definition
The date/time the responding unit arrived with the patient at the destination or transfer point.
Data Element Comment
This was added to better document delays in ED transfer of care due to ED crowding or other issues beyond EMS control.

- Ends: Time of Patient Transfer

eTimes.12 - Destination Patient Transfer of Care Date/Time
Definition
The date/time that patient care was transferred to the destination healthcare staff.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

27

Turn-around times ("Back in Service")

- **Back in Service:** is the difference in minutes between the time of the patient arrival at destination (eTimes.11) and the time of unit back in service (eTimes.13).
- Starts: Arrival at Destination

eTimes.11 - Patient Arrived at Destination Date/Time
Definition
The date/time the responding unit arrived with the patient at the destination or transfer point.

- Ends: Time of Patient Transfer

eTimes.13 - Unit Back in Service Date/Time
Definition
The date/time the unit back was back in service and available for response (finished with call, but not necessarily back in home location).

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

28

Post Licensure Skills

- EMSMDAC will be discussing on Tuesday, 1/12/2021

29

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

EMS Retirement Certificates

- <https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/ems-licensure/ems-license-retirement>

30

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Some exciting news...



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

31

In 2021...

- EMS Classroom!
- No user # limit
- Agencies can put on their own content:
 - Documents
 - Tests/Quizzes
 - Interactive Courses



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

32

Classes we will be creating...

- **EMS Education:**
 - Instructors (e.g., Annual instructor updates, GA specific modules for new instructors)
 - Initial Education Program Directors (e.g., New Program Director orientation)
 - New EMS Educational Program Medical Director training
 - Initial EMS Education Preceptor Training
 - License Management System use (initial licensure, renewals, course requests, etc)
- **Councils (EMSAC/EMSMDAC/STAC/REMSACS):**
 - Training for new council members
 - Open meetings and open records requirements
 - Conflict of Interest training
 - Zoning 101
- **Systems of Care (Trauma/Burn/Stroke/Cardiac/Perinatal/Maternal):**
 - New Program Manager, Program Medical Director, Program Registrar Trainings
 - Annual updates to quarterly reports and data dictionaries

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

33

Classes we will be creating...

- **Emergency Preparedness:**
 - Georgia-Specific Infectious Disease Control and Infectious Disease Network training
 - Coastal Evacuation Planning
- **Medics:**
 - Scope of practice updates
 - Data reporting requirements
 - Clinical and epidemiology education programs (such as COVID-19, MIS-C, Opiate Clusters, etc)
 - License Management System use (initial licensure, renewals, etc.)
- **EMS Agencies:**
 - Medical Directors (e.g., New EMS Agency Medical Director training)
 - EMS Data Managers (e.g., New EMS Data Manager training, schematron updates)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

34

Next OEMS Meetings/Updates

- EMSMDAC
 - Tuesday, January 12, 2021 @ 2pm-4pm (next week)
- Epidemiology and Operational Updates
 - Q1 CY2021 updates – 2nd Fridays @ 11am (times may vary)
 - ▢ February 12, 2021
 - ▢ March 12, 2021
- Instructor Updates
 - All EMS Initial Education Program Directors should attend
 - Recommended that all Instructor/Coordinators attend as well
 - Friday, 12/11/2020 @ 11am (~1 hour)
 - Q1 CY2021 updates – 4th Friday @ 11am (times may vary)
 - ▢ January 22, 2021
 - ▢ February 26, 2021
 - ▢ March 26, 2021

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

35

Questions? And Open Discussion

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

36