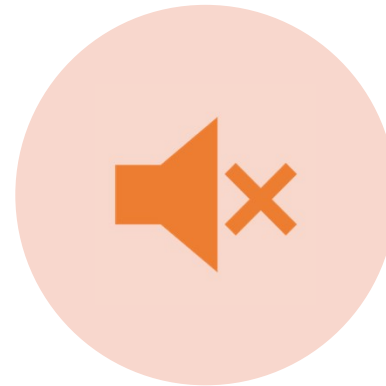


# Please

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TYPE QUESTIONS IN THE  
CHAT BOX



MUTE YOUR LINES

# Note

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***This operational WebEx/call is for EMS agencies and EMS educational programs only.***



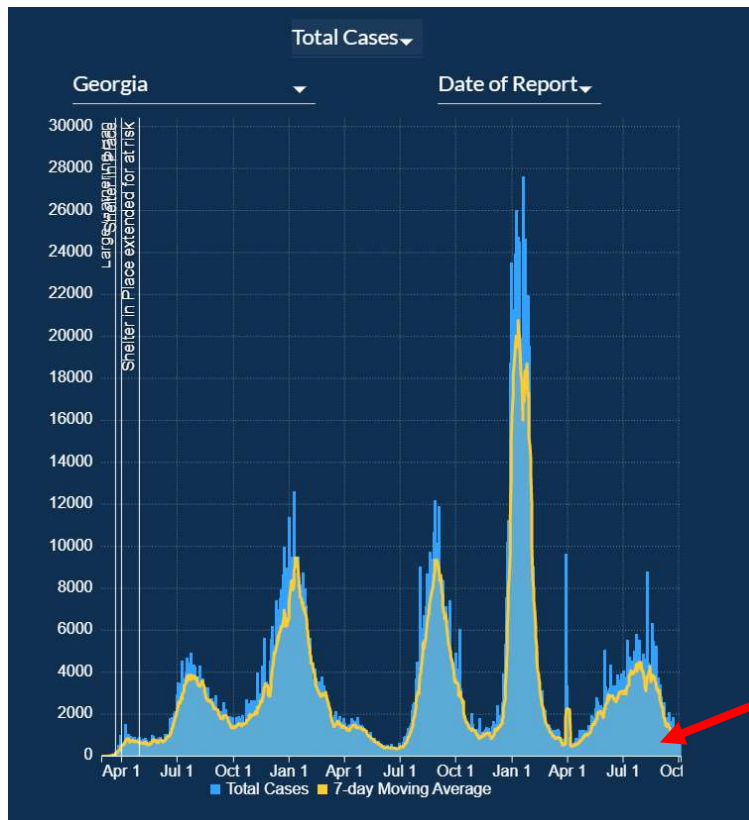
***If you are a member of the media or the general public, you are asked to disconnect from this WebEx/call immediately.***

# Georgia OEMST Update – Epidemiology and Operations

# Epidemiology Update

Cherie L. Drenzek DVM, MS / State Epidemiologist

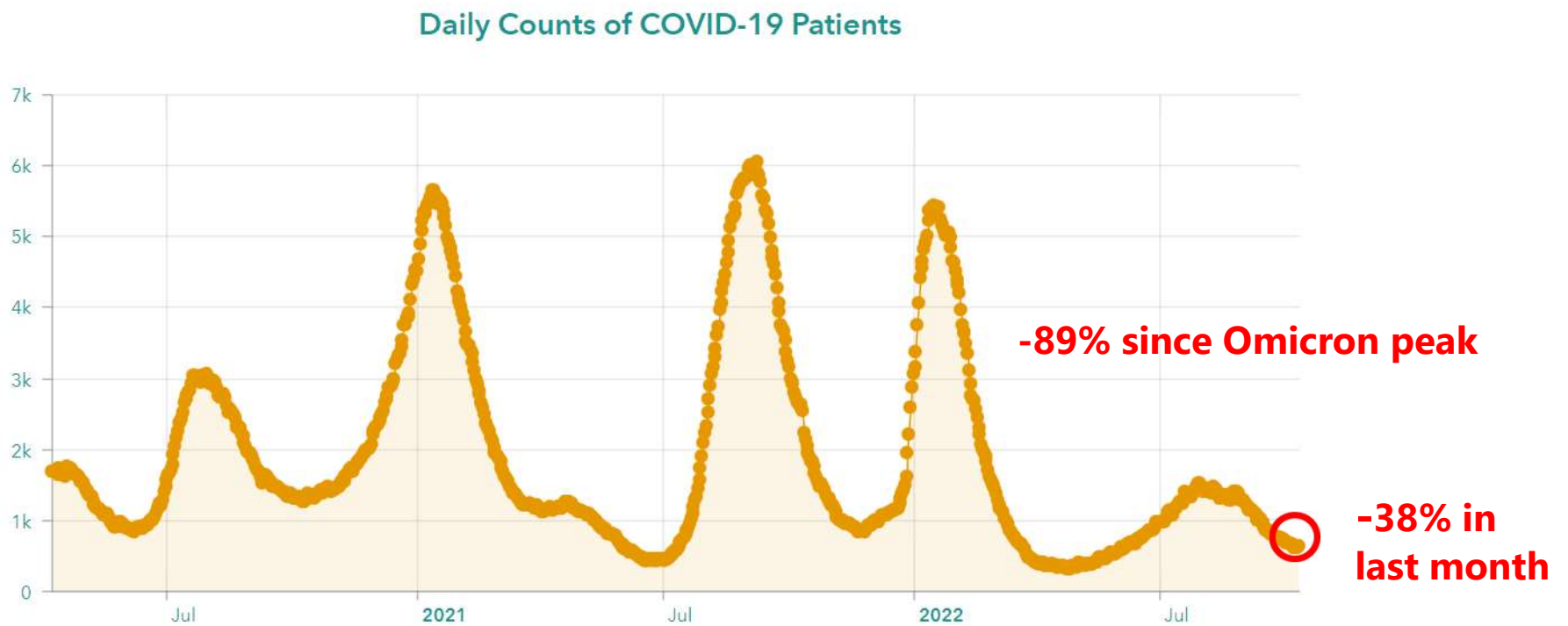
# Total COVID-19 Cases



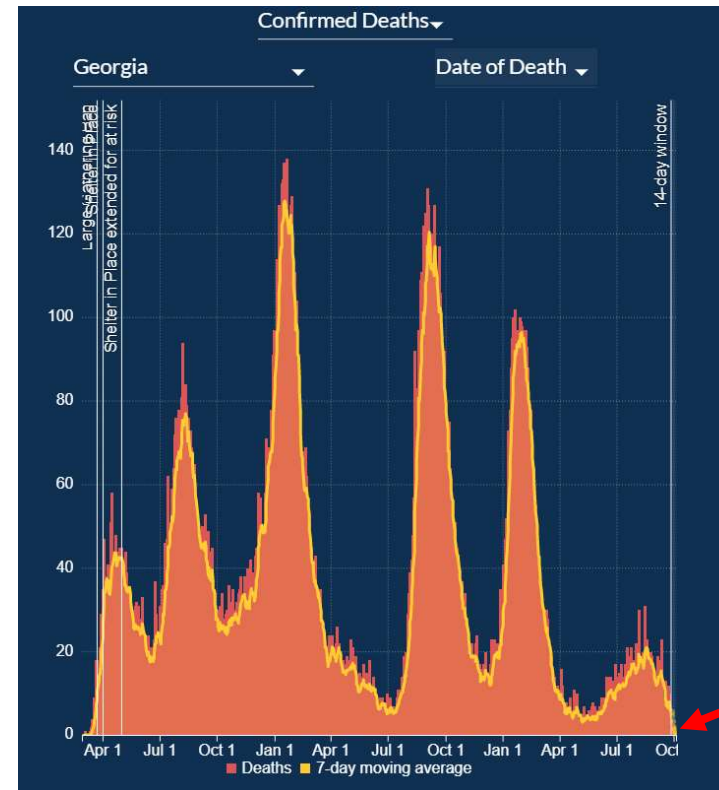
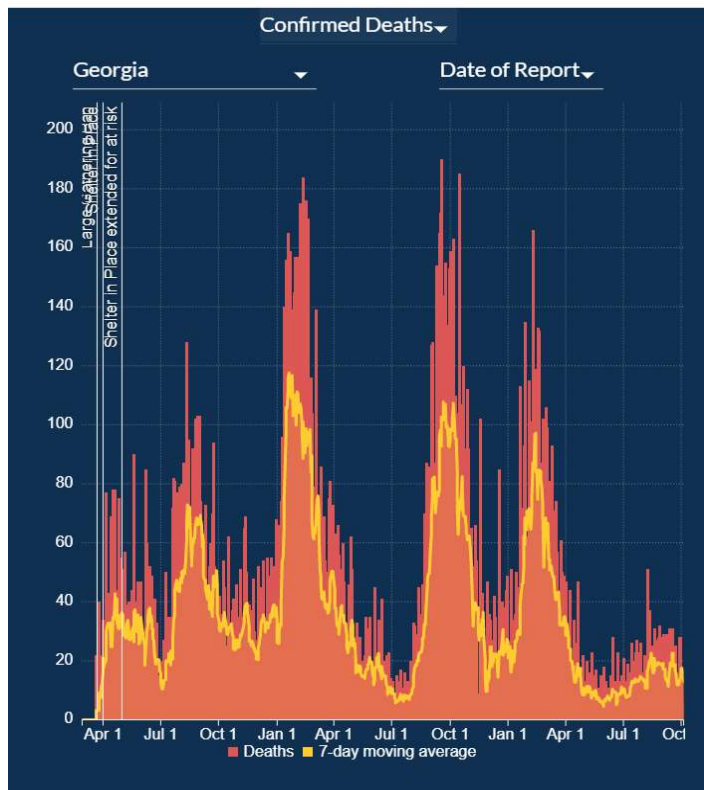
- However, a trio of new Omicron subvariants are rising steadily (even tripling) in the last few weeks: **BA.4.6 (17%)**, and **BF.7 (4.4%)**, and **BA.2.75 (1.4%)**.

**-80% decline since mid-August**

# COVID-19 Hospitalizations



# COVID-19 Deaths



# Summary: Pandemic is Not Over

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- Still no complacency: SARS-CoV-2 is still with us, has proven very adept at changing, and still kills nearly 400 Americans per day (60% among those >70 years old).
- Other concerns: waning immunity (>4 months), too few adults (and >12) getting bivalent boosters, too few kids getting vaccinated, and long COVID.
- Vaccination, bivalent boosters, antivirals, testing, and traditional mitigation are critical WHEN we face new variants that emerge and result in surges over the next several years.

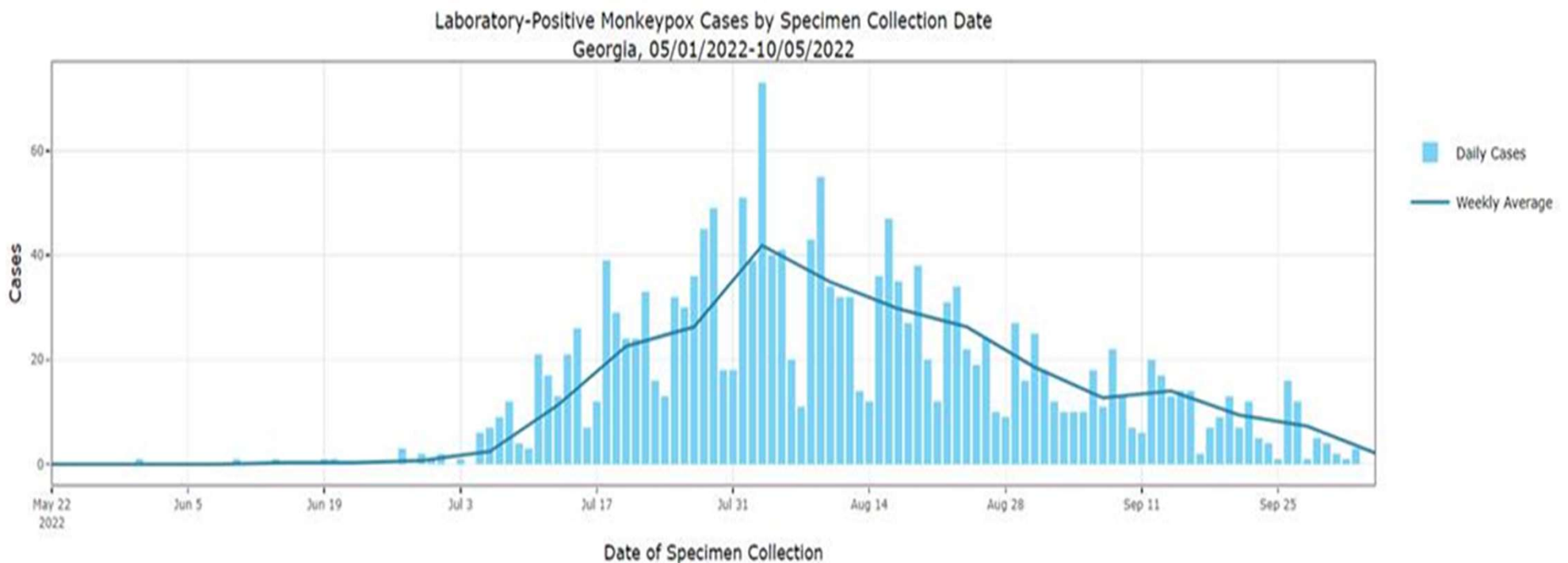


# Monkeypox Outbreak: Epidemiology

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- Globally, since May, there have been >70K monkeypox cases with 27K in the US alone
- Georgia has 1857 cases in 64 counties, but 85% of cases are in the metro Atlanta area.
- Good news: Case rates have been consistently slowing over the last few weeks nationally and in Georgia.
- Effect of targeted vaccination efforts based on population at risk, education and behavioral changes.

# Monkeypox Epi Curve, Georgia



# Severe Monkeypox Infections

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- Although rare, severe manifestations of monkeypox can occur
- Limited data; few patients in US so far but increasing
- HIV+, severely immune compromised
- Atypical rash with coalescing or necrotic lesions
- Hallmark of **very rapid** deterioration
- Multiple organ system involvement (pulmonary, neuro, cardiac, ocular)
- Treatment: IV TPOXX, Vaccinia IGIV (limited data)
- Several fatal cases
- Underscores recommendation to test MPX patients for HIV, ensure ART, and to prioritize MPX vaccination HIV infected

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/han00475.asp>

# Closing Comments

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1. Infectious diseases are ever-changing and unpredictable!
2. **Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation are** the cornerstones of prevention and control recommendations, including medical countermeasures for pre-and/or post-exposure prophylaxis.

Example: Ebola Sudan Outbreak in Uganda

“Identify, Isolate, Inform”

1-866-PUB-HLTH

# Questions for Dr. Drenzek

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- Epidemiology

# Travel Questions

## Identify, Isolate, Inform: Management of Patients Who Present With Possible Ebola Virus Disease or Other Significant Communicable Disease

### WHO: Public Safety

- 911 Dispatch Centers
- Fire Departments
- EMS Services
- Law Enforcement

### WHAT: Travel History

- Does the individual have a positive travel history? \*
- Is the individual exhibiting sign and or symptoms of Ebola or other significant communicable disease
- Has that person come in contact with someone who is sick or has a positive travel history? \*

### WHEN: If YES then...

- Isolate the individual and select proper PPE \*
- Contact 1-866-PUB-HLTH for assistance in determining if the individual/patient should be transported to a specialized facility and if that individual needs to be transported with a transport unit from the State of Georgia's Infectious Disease Transport Network (IDTN).
- The on-call Medical epidemiologist will guide the caller as to the appropriate action for safest and most efficient and appropriate management of the individual.

- Travel History: Travel to a known area where significant communicable diseases are prevalent. Travel must have occurred within the known incubation period.
- Proper PPE: As appropriate for Respiratory, Direct Contact or Droplet transmission of the suspected/known disease or virus.
- Public Health On-Call Medical Epidemiologist:  
1-866-782-4584 or 1-866-PUB-HLTH

*We Protect Lives.*



Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network  
October 6, 2022, 10:45 AM ET  
CDCHEAN-00477

### Outbreak of Ebola virus disease (*Sudan ebolavirus*) in Central Uganda

#### Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory about a recently confirmed outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Uganda caused by Sudan virus (species *Sudan ebolavirus*) to summarize CDC's recommendations for U.S. public health departments and clinicians, case identification and testing, and clinical laboratory biosafety considerations. **No suspected, probable, or confirmed EVD cases related to this outbreak have yet been reported in the United States.** However, as a precaution and to remind clinicians about best practices, CDC is communicating with public health departments, public health laboratories, and healthcare workers in the United States to raise awareness of this outbreak.



Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network  
September 29, 2022 02:15 PM ET  
CDCHEAN-00475

### Severe Manifestations of Monkeypox among People who are Immunocompromised Due to HIV or Other Conditions

### Melioidosis in the United States: What Clinicians Need to Know Following Newly Discovered Endemicity

#### Overview

The causative bacteria *Burkholderia pseudomallei* (*B. pseudomallei*) was recently found in soil and water in the southern United States. This bacterium causes a rare and serious disease called melioidosis. During this COCA Call, presenters will provide updates on the new and evolving epidemiology of melioidosis in the United States and discuss what clinicians need to know to prevent, diagnose, and treat melioidosis. They will also address what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is doing to learn more about melioidosis in the United States.



Date: Thursday, October 13, 2022

# Travel Clinical Assistant

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

The Travel Clinical Assistant provides post-travel clinical information on travel-related diseases for 231 countries.

- Diseases with recent outbreaks occurring in the last 2 years are listed first. For recent outbreaks, information on clinical symptoms, transmission modes, infection control, and reporting to the Georgia Department of Public Health are provided.
- The second table lists additional endemic and/or travel-related diseases that may be acquired by travelers to a country. Disease links are provided for additional information on symptoms, transmission, testing, and/or treatment.

## Travel Clinical Assistant (TCA)

The Travel Clinical Assistant provides post-travel clinical information on travel-related diseases for 231 countries. Diseases with recent outbreaks occurring in the last 2 years are listed first. For recent outbreaks, information on clinical symptoms, transmission modes, infection control, and reporting to the Georgia Department of Public Health are provided. The second table lists additional endemic and/or travel-related diseases that may be acquired by travelers to a country. Disease links are provided for additional information on symptoms, transmission, testing, and/or treatment.

Pre-travel vaccine recommendations can be found [here](#).

 [Travel Clinical Assistant Factsheet](#)



The screenshot shows the user interface of the Travel Clinical Assistant. On the left, there is a search bar with the text "Search for travel-related diseases by country:" and a "Search" button. To the right of the search bar is a world map with several countries highlighted in blue. Below the map, there is a small text instruction: "(Click on map or enter country name at left to search)".

# Travel Clinical Assistant

Search for travel-related diseases by country:

Uganda

Search



(Click on map or enter country name at left to search)

## Uganda

### Recent Outbreaks (5)

Disease	Epi Facts	Infection Control	DPH Guidelines
EBOLA 2022	Incubation: 5d - 12d (range 1d - 21d)  Clinical hints: Fever, myalgia, arthralgia, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, conjunctivitis, hepatic dysfunction and maculopapular rash, hemorrhagic diarrhea from 3rd to 4th day of illness; case-fatality rate 50% to 90%.  Transmission: Reservoir: Primate, Guinea pig, Bat, Forest antelope Vector: None Vehicle: Infected secretions, Contact, Needle, Syringe, Sexual contact, Breastfeeding	Use Standard, Droplet, And Contact Precautions	Report immediately to DPH by calling 1-800-PUB-HLTH
ANTHRAX 2020	Incubation: 1d-7d; 1-12 cutaneous, 1-7 GI; 1-43 pulmonary  Clinical hints: Edematous skin ulcer covered by black eschar - satellite vesicles may be present; fulminant gastroenteritis or pneumonia; necrotizing stomatitis; hemorrhagic meningitis. Acquired from contact with large mammals or their products (meat, wool, hides, bone).  Transmission: Reservoir: Soil, Goat, Cattle, Sheep, Water, Horse Vector: Fly (rare) Vehicle: Hair, Wool, Hides, Bone products, Air, Meat, Contact	Use standard precautions	Report immediately to DPH by calling 1-800-PUB-HLTH
	Incubation: 1d - 5d (range 9h - 6d)  <i>(Clinical hints: Massive diarrhea, diarrhea and dehydration)</i>		

Search for travel-related diseases by country:

bahamas

Search



(Click on map or enter country name at left to search)

## Bahamas

### Diseases Relevant for Travelers (96)

Disease	
ADENOVIRUS INFECTION	AMEBIC INFECTION - FREE LIVING
AMOEBC COLITIS	ANISAKIASIS
ASCARIASIS	BACILLUS CEREUS FOOD POISONING
BLASTOCYSTIS HOMINIS INFECTION	BOTULISM
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	CHANCROID
CHIKUNGUNYA	CHROMOMYCOSIS
CLOSTRIDIAL FOOD POISONING	CONJUNCTIVITIS - VIRAL
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	CUTANEOUS LARVA MIGRANS
CYCLOSPORIASIS	CYSTICERCOSIS
DENGUE	DIPHTHERIA
DIPHYLLOBOTRIASIS	DIPYLIDIASIS
DIROFILARIA SIS	ENTEROVIRUS INFECTION
ERYSIPELOID	ESCHERICHIA COLI DIARRHEA
GASTROENTERITIS - VIRAL	GB VIRUS C INFECTION
GIARDIASIS	GONOCOCCAL INFECTION
GRANULOMA INGUINALE	HEPATITIS A
HEPATITIS B	HEPATITIS C
HEPATITIS D	HEPATITIS E
HERPES B INFECTION	HIV INFECTION
HOOKWORM	HTLV INFECTION



# Georgia OEMST Update

Michael Johnson/Kelly Joiner/Richard Rhodes

# OEMST Position Updates

Michael Johnson

# OEMST Position Updates

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## **R3 Assistant Regional Director**

- Stanley McDaniel
  - [stanley.mcdaniel@dph.ga.gov](mailto:stanley.mcdaniel@dph.ga.gov)

## **Regional Training Coordinator – R6**

- Applicant selected, start date October 17th

## **Cardiac Care Director**

- Application closed, interview process

## **Licensing/Compliance Specialist**

- Application closed, interview process

## **EMS Data Manager**

- Cassie Longhart's last day 9/30
- Position in HR process to be posted

# NHTSA EMS Reassessment

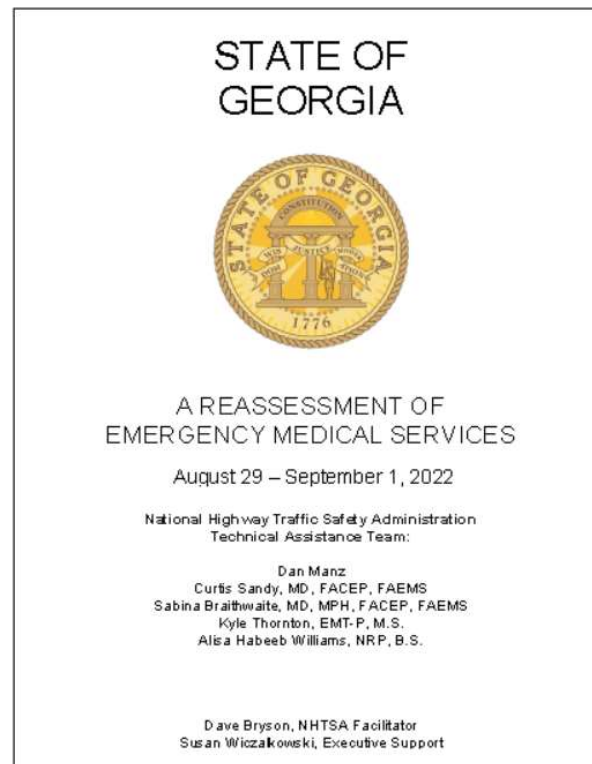
Michael Johnson

# NHTSA EMS Reassessment

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## 11 Categories

- Regulation and Policy
- Resource Management
- HR and Education
- Transportation
- Facilities
- Communications
- Systems of Care
- Public Information
- Medical Direction
- Preparedness
- Evaluation



# Workforce Numbers

Kelly Joiner

# Number of Licensees as of 10/14/2022

Level	As of 01/01/22	As of 04/01/2022	As of 10/14/2022	Δ YTD	Δ since 4/01
EMT-Responder	99	203	287	+188	+84
EMT	5,805	5,431	6,223	+418	+792
EMT-Intermediate	4,881	4,805	4,811	-70	+6
Advanced EMT	4,931	4,716	5,072	+141	+356
Cardiac Technician	28	27	27	-1	NC
Paramedic	8,770	8,562	8,989	+219	+427
TOTAL	24,514	23,744	25,409	+895	+1,665

# Naloxone for EMS Agencies

Kelly Joiner



# Naloxone for EMS Agencies

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- Will be available to licensed EMS agencies.
- Working with DPH Pharmacy to order and receive Naloxone supplies.
- EMS Naloxone Request Application will be active prior to the beginning of each quarter for 2 weeks.
  - Application will be available to the Authorized Agent
  - Will send out communication before the application becomes active
- Naloxone supplies are to supplement current EMS agency inventory and will be allocated based on supply on hand.
- EMS agencies must have a Medication/Pharmacy Formulary and Protocols that include Narcan. Both must be dated, approved, and signed by Medical Director on file for license.

# EMS Personnel License Renewal

Kelly Joiner

# Medic License Renewal for 3/31/2023

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**Georgia Medic Renewal** application now available, October 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>

- Continuing Education (CE) must be entered into Education Report into LMS
- Must upload BCLS and ACLS (if applicable) cards
- \$75.00
- \$2.75 credit card charge

Agency-Indicate Medics for Renewal Payments application now open

- Application will close on February 15<sup>th</sup>
- **Georgia Medic Renewal – Agency Paid** application

# Instructor License Renewal

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## **EMS Instructor and Instructor/Coordinator Renewal** application

- Instructor Renewal period:  
1/1/2020 – 12/31/2022
- CE/Active Teaching requirements restart as soon as your renewal is issued
- Application fee of \$25
- Late renewal period is 6 months after the license renewal date
  - Late fee will apply

# EMS Education Consortium

Richard Rhodes

# EMS Education Consortium

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The Consortium is reviewing a slate of projects right now and will be meeting again Nov 18th at Athens Technical College and Virtual

Two interesting things came out of our first meeting

- Columbus Tech marketed directly to Stewart County
- Trish Hotz/Albany Tech/OEMS are holding a remediation class for Paramedics
  - 26 are participating
  - Several other agencies have expressed an interest in doing something similar

# Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

Richard Rhodes

# Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

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EMSAC Quarterly Meeting – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:00am  
(In person & Virtual)

EMSMDAC Quarterly Meeting – January 10, 2022 @ 10:00am (Virtual)

<https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/public-notice-regional-and-statewide-meetings>

Note: OEMST Monthly Epi and Ops Update: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month



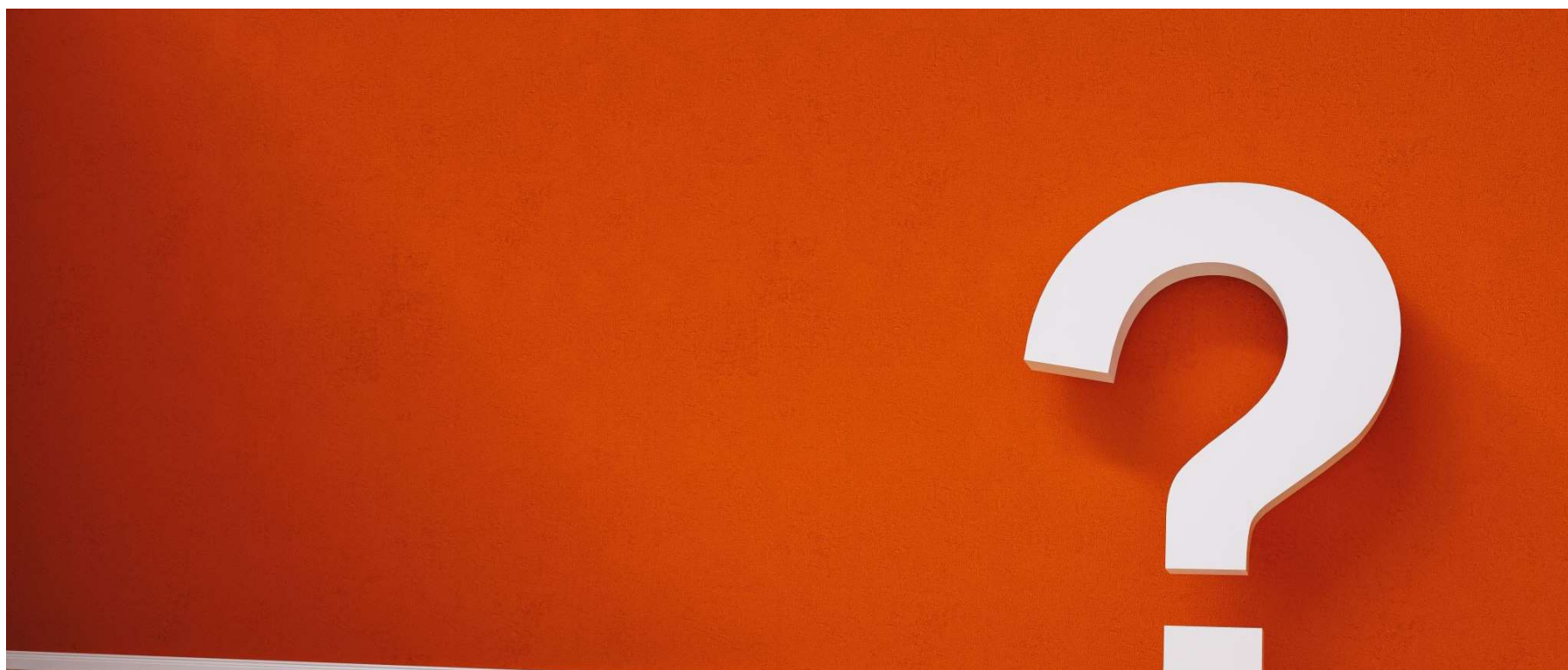
# Regional Instructor Symposiums

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- Region 10 – November 18<sup>th</sup>, Athens Technical College
  - Consortium meeting this day/location at 10AM-12PM
- Region 1 – December 1<sup>st</sup>, Cherokee County Fire
- Region 9 is slated for January – Date TBD

# Questions? And Open Discussion

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# Thanks for all that you do

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- Be Safe
- Be prepared
- Watch for emails