

Georgia OEMS Update – COVID-19, etc

OEMS / Friday, 10/23/2020



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3

Agenda

- Epidemiology Report
- Operational Updates
- Educational Updates
- Questions

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4

Epidemiology Report

Dr. Drenzek



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5

Epidemiology Report – Dr. Cherie Drenzek – graphs as of 10/22/2020

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

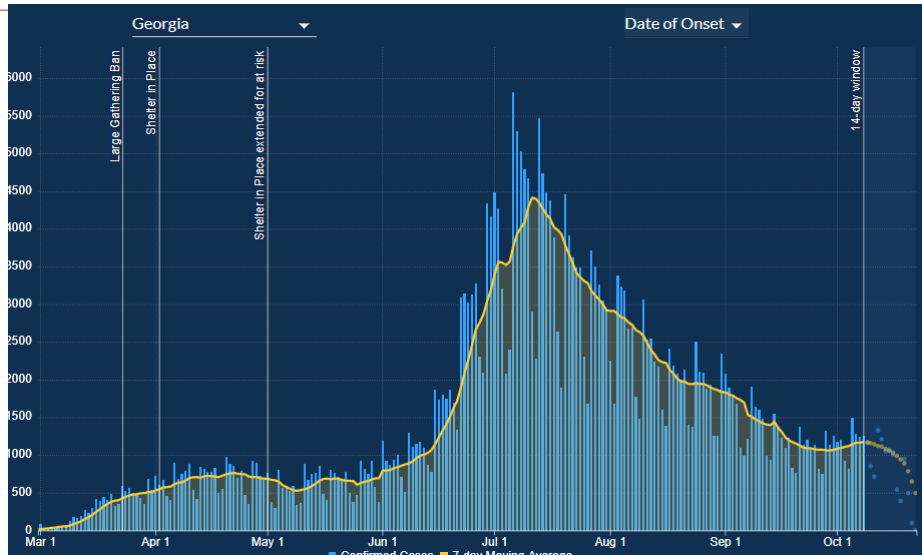
Confirmed Cases ⓘ	Deaths ⓘ	Hospitalizations ⓘ	ICU Admissions ⓘ
345,535	7,729	30,829	5,774

COVID-19 Testing ⓘ			
	Total PCR/ Molecular	PCR/Molecular Reported Today	Total Antibody (Serology)
Number of Tests	3,367,534	29,219	321,823
Number of Positive Tests	323,551	2,277	28,346
% Positive	9.6%	7.8%	8.8%

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6

Cases Over Time (By date of onset)



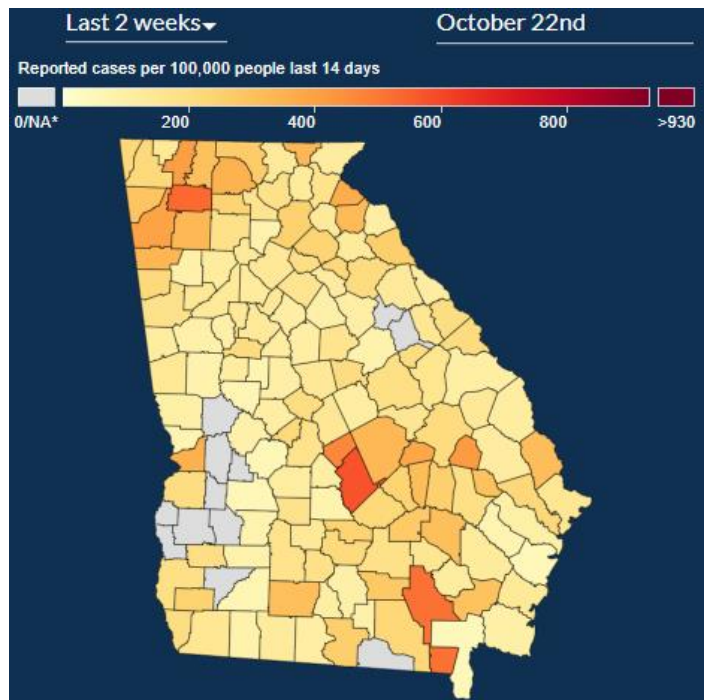
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7

Reported cases per 100,000 people last 14 days - as of 10/22/2020

Georgia - October 22

- Cases (last 2 weeks): 18,586
- Cases per 100k (last 2 weeks): 172
- Cases (total): 345,535
- Cases per 100k (total): 3190
- Population: 10,833,472



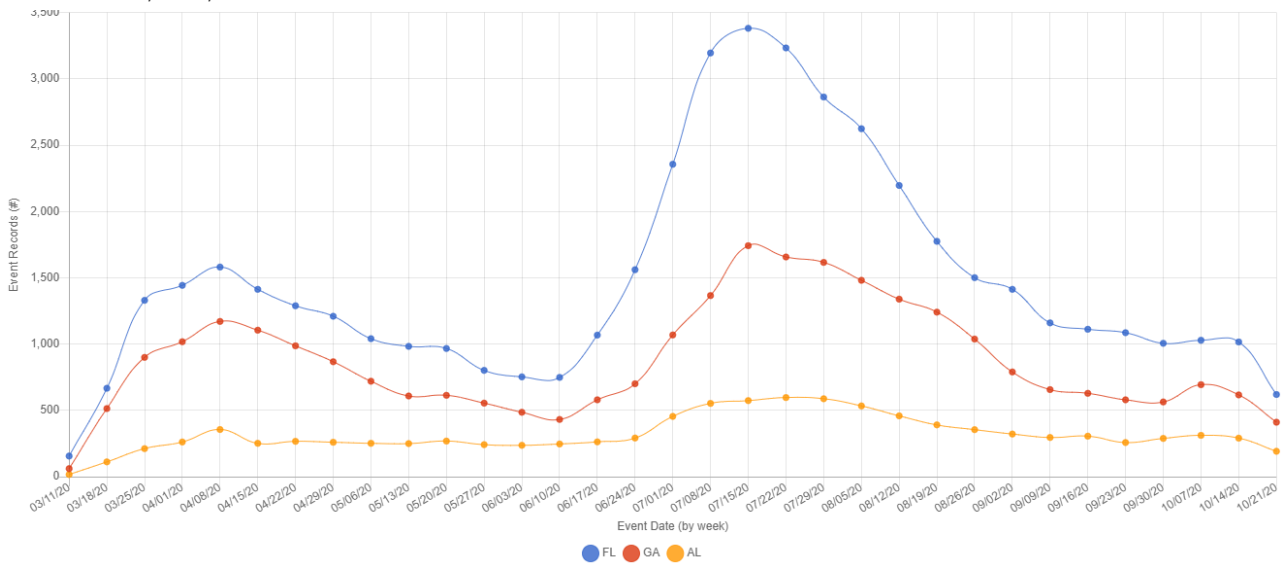
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8

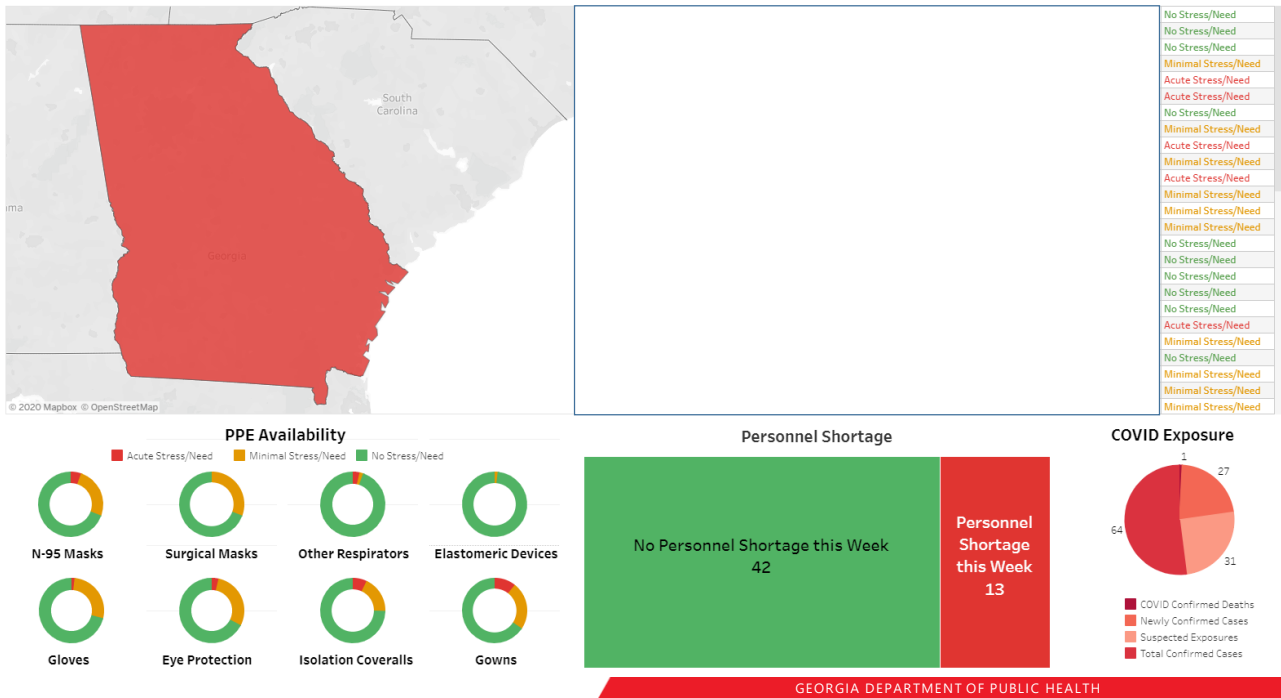
Epidemiology Questions for Dr. Drenzek?

9

Calculated COVID-19 Syndrome – 3/10/2020 – 10/22/2020, AL, FL, GA



10



11

EMS Operational Updates



12

Reminders

- As of 10/22/2020:
 - 3,573 (-95 in last 2 weeks) Medics without email addresses!
- Renewal season is here!
- 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- There is NO excuse for having out-of-date rosters and NO excuse for saying "I didn't know that medic had expired"

Agencies with medics without email addresses



- Contact your Regional EMS Director to get a list of these medics

Renewals

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

- **Must** have training documented before renewal process will go to Form 2

Form 1 - Training Hours Verification

- This form has instructions on how to check your training hours. (Click  [HERE](#) for instructions on how to check your training hours, and click  [HERE](#) for instructions on how to update your training hours)
- When you click Submit, if your hours are done, you will be given Form 2. If not, your application will be retired, and you will need to start a new one.

Form 2 - Compliance Check

- If you have completed Form 1 and all hours were correct, then you should be taken back to the "Continue My Applications" page, and under Form, you should see the "Form 2 - Compliance Check" - click **Start**
- You will be asked about your residency status and any criminal history since your last renewal.
- If you have no compliance issues, you will be given Form 3.

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15

Form 3 - Renewal Information

- If you have completed Form 1 and Form 2 and had no issues, then you should be taken back to the "Continue My Applications" page, and under Form, you should see the "Form 3 - Renewal Information" - click **Start**
- Complete each tab and click **Save and Continue**
- All medics are required to upload a copy of their CPR card (front and back) and for CTs and Paramedics, a copy of their ACLS card (front and back) is also required.
- Select your payment type - the fastest payment type is Credit/Debit Card (there is an additional \$2.75 charge for Credit/Debit Card processing)
- After completing all tabs and signing the last page, click **Submit** and then you will be asked if you are sure, click **Yes**.
- If you elected to pay by Credit/Debit card, you will be taken to the Checkout page - once there, click on **Pay now**
- Enter your Card and Billing information, and then click Submit Transaction - wait for it to finish processing (do NOT refresh your screen)
- The "All Transactions" screen is next - if the transaction does not have a status of "Completed", then your payment was not successful, and you need to click on **Checkout** under Applications on the left to attempt your payment again.
- If the payment was successful, then you should receive an email stating your license has been renewed. You can also click on **My Account** on the left and check your new Expiration Date. You can click on **Documents** under the My Account section to see your license card.

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16

Renewals Completed so far – 118 down, 15,873 to go!

Date	Count	Date	Count	Date	Count
10/1/2020	21	10/9/2020	6	10/17/2020	3
10/2/2020	11	10/10/2020	0	10/18/2020	1
10/3/2020	1	10/11/2020	4	10/19/2020	4
10/4/2020	5	10/12/2020	6	10/20/2020	0
10/5/2020	9	10/13/2020	3	10/21/2020	5
10/6/2020	11	10/14/2020	6	10/22/2020	2
10/7/2020	9	10/15/2020	4	TOTAL	118
10/8/2020	5	10/16/2020	2		

17

Agencies who pay for renewals

<https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/ems-licensure/group-payments-medic-renewals>

- Application = **Agency - Indicate Medics for Renewal Payments**
 - Must be Authorized Agent or EMS Agency Admin
- Open now till 2/15/2021 – this deadline is **FIRM**
 - All moneys **MUST** be received by COB on March 1, 2021 – this deadline is **FIRM!**
 - This leaves the medic 30 day to renew their license.
- Medics will NOT see the “Georgia Medic Renewal – Agency Paid” application until AFTER the EMS Agency has paid for their application fees

18

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

19

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BinaxNOW


- <https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/binaxnow-ems>
- Data portal for reporting results is up and running
- Request an allocation through LMS
 - 4 EMS agencies so far

20

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CMS Testing Requirements

- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-38-nh.pdf>


CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C5-21-16
 Baltimore, Maryland 21244-0199

Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: QSO-20-38-NH

DATE: August 26, 2020
TO: State Survey Agency Directors
FROM: Director
 Survey and Certification Group
SUBJECT: Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS-3401-IFC, Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Testing Requirements and Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool

Memorandum Summary

- CMS is committed to taking critical steps to ensure America's healthcare facilities continue to respond effectively to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE).
- On August 25, 2020, CMS published an interim final rule with comment period (IFC). This rule establishes Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Testing Requirements for Staff and Residents. Specifically, facilities are required to test residents and staff, including individuals providing services under arrangement and volunteers, for COVID-19 based on parameters set forth by the HHS Secretary. This memorandum provides guidance for facilities to meet the new requirements.
- Revised COVID-19 Focused Survey Tool - To assess compliance with the new testing requirements, CMS has revised the survey tool for surveyors. We are also adding to the survey process the assessment of compliance with the requirements for facilities to designate one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) (IPs) who are responsible for the facility's infection prevention and control program (IPCP) at 42 CFR § 483.80(b). In addition, we are making a number of revisions to the survey tool to reflect other COVID-19 guidance updates.

On August 25, 2020, CMS published an interim final rule with comment period (IFC), CMS-3401-IFC, entitled "[Medicare and Medicaid Programs, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 \(CLIA\), and Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)". CMS's recommendation below to test with authorized nucleic acid or antigen detection assays is an important addition to other infection prevention and control (IPC) recommendations aimed at preventing COVID-19 from entering nursing homes, detecting cases quickly, and stopping transmission. Swift identification of confirmed COVID-19 cases allows the facility to take immediate action to remove exposure risks to nursing home residents and staff. CMS has added


21

“Facility staff” includes employees, consultants, **contractors**, volunteers, and caregivers who provide care and services to residents on behalf of the facility, and students in the facility’s nurse aide training programs or from affiliated academic institutions. For the purpose of testing “individuals providing services under arrangement and volunteers,” facilities should prioritize those individuals who are regularly in the facility (e.g., weekly) and have contact with residents or staff. We note that the facility may have a provision under its arrangement with a vendor or volunteer that requires them to be tested from another source (e.g., their employer or on their own). However, the facility is still required to obtain documentation that the required testing was completed during the timeframe that corresponds to the facility’s testing frequency, as described in Table 2 below.

22

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh.pdf>

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C2-21-16
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: QSO-20-39-NH

DATE: September 17, 2020

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Nursing Home Visitation - COVID-19

Memorandum Summary

- CMS is committed to continuing to take critical steps to ensure America's healthcare facilities are prepared to respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency (PHE).
- **Visitation Guidance:** CMS is issuing new guidance for visitation in nursing homes during the COVID-19 PHE. The guidance below provides reasonable ways a nursing home can safely facilitate in-person visitation to address the psychosocial needs of residents.
- **Use of Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Funds:** CMS will now approve the use of CMP funds to purchase tents for outdoor visitation and/or clear dividers (e.g., Plexiglas or similar products) to create physical barriers to reduce the risk of transmission during in-person visits.

Background

Nursing homes have been severely impacted by COVID-19, with outbreaks causing high rates of infection, morbidity, and mortality.¹ The vulnerable nature of the nursing home population combined with the inherent risks of congregate living in a healthcare setting have required aggressive efforts to limit COVID-19 exposure and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within nursing homes.

In March 2020, CMS issued memorandum [QSO-20-14-NH](#) providing guidance to facilities on restricting visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations, such as an end-of-life situation. In May 2020, CMS released [Nursing Home Reopening Recommendations](#), which provided additional guidance on visitation for nursing homes as their states and local communities progress through the phases of reopening. In June 2020, CMS also released a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document on visitation, which expanded on previously issued guidance on topics such as outdoor visits, compassionate care situations, and communal activities.

¹ Information on outbreaks and deaths in nursing homes may be found at <https://data.cms.gov/stories/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data?view=app>.

23

Entry of Health Care Workers and Other Providers of Services

Health care workers who are not employees of the facility but provide direct care to the facility's residents, such as hospice workers, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, dialysis technicians, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, clergy etc., must be permitted to come into the facility as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion due to an exposure to COVID-19 or show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 after being screened. We note that EMS personnel do not need to be screened so they can attend to an emergency without delay. We remind facilities that all staff, including individuals providing services under arrangement as well as volunteers, should adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and must comply with [COVID-19 testing requirements](#).

24

EMSAC and EMSMDAC

- New appointments for both
- EMSMDAC:
 - Quarterly meeting this past Tuesday
 - Next collaboration session Tue, 11/10/2020 @ 2pm
- EMSAC:
 - Next quarterly meeting Tue, 11/17/2020 @ 10am

25

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Instructor Updates



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26

Instructor Rules

- Formally adopted by DPH Commissioner
- Effective 11/18/2020

27

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Timeline for transition period – these dates are FIRM

- Current Initial Level I/II/III instructor apps available till 10/31/2020 @ 11:59pm Eastern
- ALL open Level I/II/III instructor apps must be submitted by 11/9/2020 @ 9am
 - Official transcripts for Level III Instructor apps must be **received** BEFORE close of business on Thursday, 11/12/2020
 - All additional requirements for instructor apps MUST be received by COB on Thursday, 11/12/2020
 - NR Assessment exam, BLS/ACLS, etc.
- New Instructor apps available the week of 11/16/2020
- No new licenses will be issued until the earliest 11/18/2020

28

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LMS for Initial Education

- NREMT Site Codes Updates
- Add Instructional Personnel
- Next Steps

29

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Next Meetings

- Epidemiology and Operational Updates
 - Friday, 11/6/2020 @ 11am
 - Friday, 12/4/2020 @ 11am
- Instructor Updates
 - All EMS Initial Education Program Directors should attend
 - Recommended that all Instructor/Coordinators attend as well
 - Friday, 11/20/2020 @ 11am (~1 hour)
 - Friday, 12/11/2020 @ 11am (~1 hour)

30

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