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COVID-19 Response Summary December 14, 2020

Incident Command Briefing

Global cases have surpassed 72 million while cases in the United States of America are at 16.1 million. The State of Georgia currently has 476,044 cases and 9,205 deaths. The State of Georgia has completed 5,034,214 COVID-19 tests. District 4 Public Health cumulative COVID-19 cases are at 30,741 cases and 739 deaths.

The Holiday COVID-19 surge continues across the state of Georgia. Georgia has hit record high daily positive COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and record testing numbers. As we work with local partners to prepare for disseminating the vaccine, the district is still aggressively monitoring and tracking cases. The Public Information Team is working with local and state partners to address vaccine hesitancy across the district. The FDA issued the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine. The CDC Commissioner recommends the Pfizer/BioNTech be distributed to the community at-large. Following the guidance from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, we will focus on vaccinating phase 1 Healthcare Personnel (HCP) and Long-Term Care residents and staff with the first limited allocation of vaccine to the district. The FDA is set to meet on Thursday December 17, 2020 to review the Moderna safety data and will vote on its recommendation within 48 hours following that meeting. CDC and HHS are working to position vaccines across the country within the next 24 hrs. it is very likely that the District will receive its allocation of vaccine the week of December 21st. The District 4 Incident Command Team has worked with all county emergency management directors and leadership to identify point of dispensing sites for the phase 1 population. As cases rise, the Epidemiology team is seeing an increase in outbreaks in schools, manufacturing plants and small to medium sized business offices. The Epidemiology team is recommending to all business and schools that they reengage their school and employee base and stress the importance of adhering to the COVID Basics. The State of Georgia and the district are seeing potentially unprecedented positive cases, hospitalizations and deaths. The Epidemiology Team also continues to provide accurate and timely information to our public and private schools systems regarding COVID-19 cases within their school system. The top settings for outbreaks in Georgia are School Settings (13) and Long-Term Care Facilities (23) this past week.

This week's operational focus will be to prepare all identified parties to accept and disseminate the COVID-19 vaccine, identify and confirm staffing plans for dispensing site and continuation of weekly testing and the Epidemiology team will continue to make recommendations on slowing the spread of COVID-19 through schools and the business industry.

COVID-19 Operations Report 12/14

2,263 specimens collected by District 4 Specimen Points of Collection (SPOCs) over the past week.

Serving Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Henry, Lamar,
Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup, and Upson Counties

- **Butts** – Every other Thurs. (9 am - 11 am) **3** specimens collected (decrease of 33)
- **Carroll** – Wed. (9 am – 2 pm) **111** specimens collected (decrease of 6)
- **Coweta** – Mon - Fri. (9 am – 2 pm) **695** specimens collected (increase of 102)
- **Fayette** –Tues. & Fri. (9 am -2 pm) **241** specimens collected (increase of 89)
- **Heard** – Every other Mon. (9 am-11 am) **5** specimens collected (decrease of 22)
- **Henry** – Mon - Fri. (10 am – 3 pm) **796** specimens collected (increase of 170)
- **Lamar** - Thurs. (9 am-2 pm) **121** specimens collected (increase of 51)
- **Meriwether-Greenville** – Every other Wed. (9am -11 am) **71** specimens collected (increase of 71)
- **Meriwether-Manchester** – Every other Fri. (9 am -11 am) – **closed**
- **Pike** -Every other Tues. (9 am – 11 am) **closed**
- **Spalding**- Every other Tues. (9 am – 11 am) **closed**
- **Troup** – Mon. (9 am – 2 pm) **112** specimens collected (increase of 14)
- **Upson**- Wed. (9 am- 2 pm) **93** specimens collected (increase of 8)
- **1 Mobile SPOC**
West Point Training Center in Troup County – **15** specimens collected

The average turnaround time for lab results is 2 days.

District Staff will be assisting at the SPOCs. This will allow the health department staff to remain in the clinic to generate funds.

District and County Staff are working on plans as we move forward with preparing for vaccinating those in Phase 1a with COVID-19 Vaccine which includes 1) health care personnel and 2) residents of long-term care facilities

- Health care personnel are defined as paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials
- Long-term care facility residents are defined as adults who reside in facilities that provide a variety of services, including medical and personal care, to persons who are unable to live independently.

Law Enforcement, first responders and dental practices are also included in Phase 1a. It is expected that clinics will receive their vaccine in increments as the allotment for Georgia is received.

All SPOCS will be closed for holidays on December 24 & 25 and on January 1. One SPOC will operate on Saturday 12/26/20 & 1/2/2021.

Saturday SPOCs 12/26 – Fayette 1/2 - Carroll

County Health Departments

All services being offered. Employees and all who enter the buildings are encouraged to wear a mask, have temperature checked and screened for illness. Flu vaccine being promoted throughout the communities.

Contact Tracing Team Summary for 12/5/2020 @ 1213– 12/12/2020 @ 1229

- Total # of calls made by District 4 Contact Tracers for the week:
 - Total # of contact attempts (obtained from MTX report) = **1,409**
 - Total # of successful contacts (obtained from MTX report) = **628**
- Total # of individuals currently enrolled in monitoring ongoing (these individuals report by SMS or phone daily) = **474**
 - 399 engaged and no symptoms
 - 35 engaged and symptomatic
 - 40 not engaged
- Total # of individuals enrolled in manual monitoring = **31** (DPH calls these individuals daily during the duration of their monitoring/quarantine period per the contact's request)
 - 19 engaged and no symptoms
 - 1 engaged and symptomatic
 - 11 not engaged
- Total # of new contacts pending = **332** (contact for most of these individuals has been initiated/attempted, but no response as of now or they need additional follow-up)
- To date, **14,997** cases have been entered in the DPH Google MTX platform as of 12/12/2020
- Total # of case interviews completed by District 4 Case Investigators = **803**

Staffing Summary as of 12/12/2020:

- 1 PH RN
- 2 EPI
- 1 Resource Coordinator
- 1 Regional Coordinator (CDC/DPH)
- 64 Contact Tracers
- 5 Contact Tracer Supervisors
- 55 Case Investigators
- 23 Outbreak Case Investigators
- 6 Case Investigator Supervisors

Temporary SPOC Staffing Summary as of 11/30/2020

- 11 administrative staff
- 5 clinical staff

Continuity of Operations

As of Sunday 12/13/20

Total # of District 4 employees exposed/tested for Covid-19: 197

Of those tested, the results are as follows:

Negative: 152

Positive: 35

Pending: 8

Exposed not tested: 2

Planning

District had a tabletop discussion regarding COVID-19 vaccination on December 9th. There will be a tabletop December 14th for the COVID-19 vaccination administration to include district staff, county health department managers, environmental health managers, WIC managers, EMA directors, local law enforcement, EMS, and hospitals.

Logistics

Supply and PPE kits will be delivered to counties in preparation for COVID-19 vaccine the week of 12/14.

Epidemiology

94 Confirmed Outbreaks

Numbers as of 3:40PM 12/13/20

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases: 30742 median age: 42

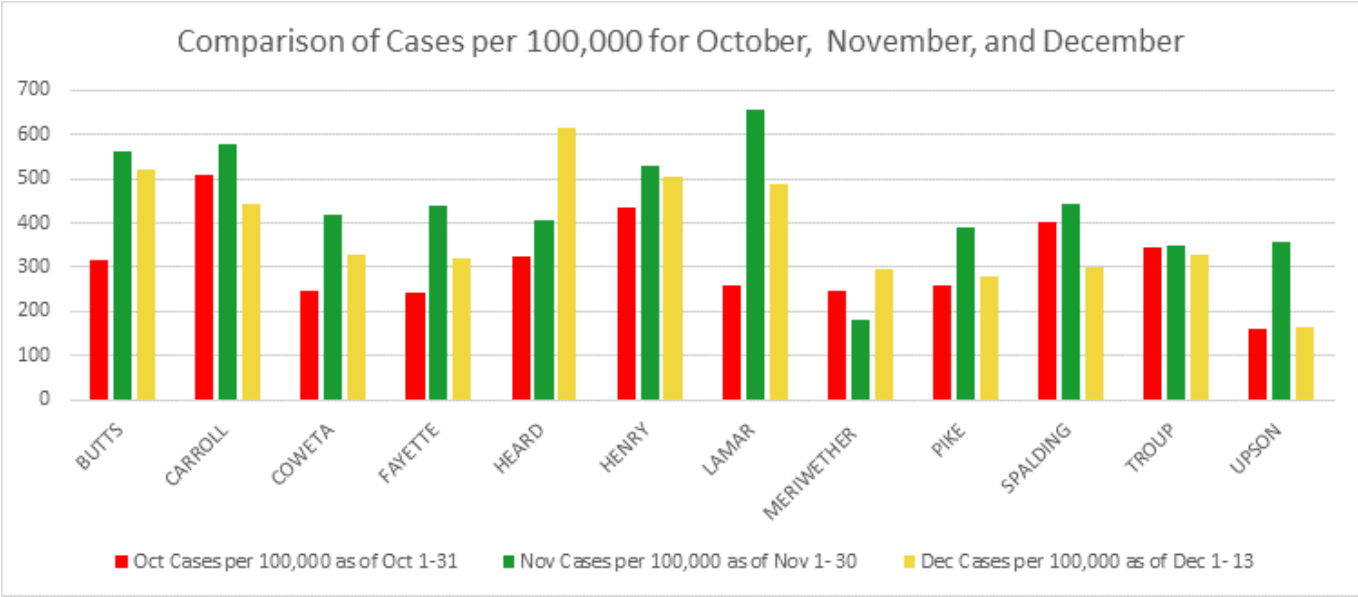
Confirmed and Presumptive COVID-19 Deaths: 739 median age: 76

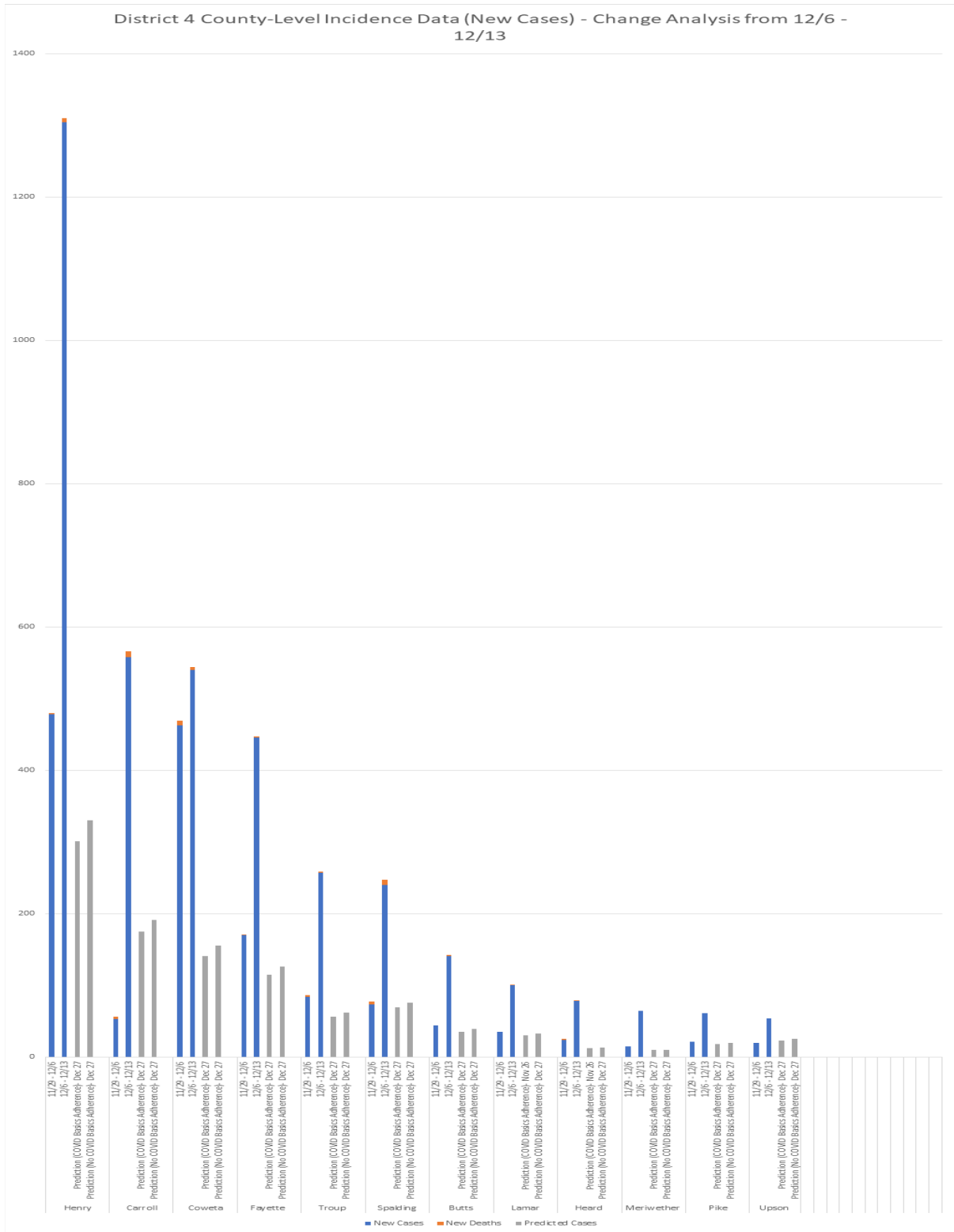
	CASES	INCREASE CASES SINCE LAST WEEK	DEATHS	INCREASE DEATHS SINCE LAST WEEK
BUTTS	1022	+141	46	+1
CARROLL	4629	+558	90	+8
COWETA	4165	+540	72	+4
FAYETTE	3103	+446	62	+1
HEARD	362	+78	8	+1
HENRY	8928	+1304	136	+6
LAMAR	643	+100	24	+1
MERIWETHER	692	+64	19	+0
PIKE	520	+61	12	+0
SPALDING	2152	+240	80	+7
TROUP	3539	+257	119	+2
UPSON	986	+54	71	+0
Total	30741	+3843	739	+31

	October Incidence (New Cases)	Oct Cases per 100,000	November Incidence (New Cases)	Nov Cases per 100,000	Trend from Oct to Nov	Current Cases (Dec 1-13)	Current Cases per 100,000 (Dec 1-13)

		as of Oct 1-31		as of Nov 1- 30			
BUTTS	79	316	141	564	increasing	130	520
CARROLL	609	508	695	579	increasing	531	443
COWETA	376	247	637	419	increasing	502	330
FAYETTE	286	242	517	438	increasing	377	320
HEARD	39	325	49	408	increasing	74	617
HENRY	1046	436	1275	531	increasing	1213	505
LAMAR	49	258	125	658	increasing	93	489
MERIWETHER	52	248	38	181	decreasing	62	295
PIKE	49	258	74	389	increasing	53	279
SPALDING	278	403	306	443	increasing	208	301
TROUP	242	346	244	349	increasing	229	327
UPSON	42	162	93	358	increasing	43	165

As can be seen in the chart above, almost all the counties are increasing significantly. We are only about halfway through the month, but we are already seeing case counts at over half the amount that was seen for the entire month of November. Georgia and District 4 are seeing a surge in cases currently, which makes it even more important to follow and promote the COVID basics in your communities – wear face coverings, social distance at least 6 feet, and use proper hand hygiene and cough etiquette.





*COVID basics adherence refers to the use of social distancing (6 feet apart), good hand hygiene, and wearing face coverings in public.

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Note: the predicted cases shown in the graph above (the grey bars) are those cases that were projected for the observed week (Nov 15- Nov 22). It illustrates the number of expected cases for the week based on the Nov 1-26 projection. It can be seen that for some counties, the confirmed cases for the week were greater than the projected cases for the week.

Communication

The safest way to celebrate winter holidays is to celebrate at home with the people who live with you. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others.

Travel and gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you can increase your chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine received [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) December 11, 2020.

mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a harmless piece of the “spike protein” for SARS-CoV-2.

After the protein piece is made, the cell breaks down the instructions (the mRNA) and gets rid of them.

- Cells display this piece of spike protein on their surface, and an immune response is triggered inside our bodies. This produces antibodies to protect us from getting infected if the SARS-CoV-2 virus enters our bodies.
- mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19. They **CANNOT** give someone COVID-19.
- mRNA vaccines **DO NOT** affect or interact with our DNA in any way.

[Frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccines.](#)