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## COVID-19 Response Summary March 8, 2021

### **Incident Command Briefing**

The District continues to see a decline in weekly COVID-19 cases; however, deaths and hospitalizations remain high. Testing across the state has decreased significantly in the past few weeks. As public health continues its vaccination campaigns across the state, starting March 8, additional groups will be eligible for the COVID vaccine and those groups can be found here: [COVID Vaccine | Georgia Department of Public Health](#). The Johnson and Johnson vaccine was approved for emergency use and Georgia will begin vaccinating eligible groups starting March 8<sup>th</sup>. With a decrease in medium to low acuity COVID-19 patients, The Georgia World Congress Center has deactivated its overflow COVID patient operations.

The Communication and Epidemiology team continues to provide information on testing and vaccination sites to community partners. Due to the overwhelming response for vaccine in the eligible groups, all vaccination clinics will be by appointment only for qualified members. To schedule an appointment call 762-888-8180 on Monday through Friday from 8:00AM - 5:00 PM. Please also check [COVID Vaccine | Georgia Department of Public Health](#) to locate a COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

The District Operations Team continues to staff and manage testing and vaccination sites throughout the district. Currently, every county has a testing site and weekly vaccination sites (dependent on vaccine availability). The Medical Reserve Corps of West Georgia is currently deploying medical and non-medical volunteers to assist with vaccination sites. District 4 has various projects to reach seniors in the counties. District 4 has created a Vaccine Intervention Team (VIT) to provide the vaccine to long-term care facilities and personal care homes. The team will deploy to the location for first and second doses, locations are prioritized based on Epidemiology data. District 4 is also contacting senior centers to identify members that are interested in receiving the vaccine and providing options to receive the vaccine. This outreach effort will be expanded to include African American and Hispanic churches, geriatric physicians, adult day cares, and other publicly-funded senior centers.

The top settings for outbreaks in Georgia are School Settings (22) and Long-Term Care Facilities (7) this past week.

This week's operational focus will be on outreach to additional COVID-19 vaccination eligible groups, continuation of vaccination clinics, vaccine hesitancy campaign, the activation of the vaccination intervention team (VIT), staffing of testing and vaccine sites, deployment of MRC volunteers, planning with school districts on vaccinations for staff and communication with local leaders about vaccine rollout.

### **COVID-19 Operations Report for the weeks of 2/22 and 3/1/2021**

**1,076 specimens** collected by District 4 Specimen Points of Collection (SPOCs) over the past 2 weeks. **615 specimens** collected 2/22-2/27 and **461** collected 3/1-3/6/21.

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

- **Butts** – Every other Thurs. (9 am - 11 am) **14/0** specimens collected
- **Carroll** – Wed. (9 am – 2 pm) **23/15** specimens collected
- **Coweta** – Tues. & Thurs. (9 am – 2 pm) & every other Sat. (9 a-12pm) **95/93** specimens collected
- **Fayette** – Fri. (9 am -2 pm) **84/63** specimens collected
- **Heard** – Every other Mon. (9 am-11 am) **14/0** specimens collected
- **Henry** – Mon – Thurs. (9am – 3 pm) & Sat. (9 am - 12 pm) **265/263** specimens collected
- **Lamar** - Thurs. (9 am-2 pm) **25/21** specimens collected
- **Meriwether-Greenville** – Every other Wed. (9am -11 am) **0/12** specimens collected
- **Meriwether-Manchester** – Every other Fri. (9 am -11 am) – **13/0** specimens collected
- **Pike** -Every other Fri. (9 am – 11 am) **10/0** specimens collected
- **Spalding**- Every other Tues. (9 am – 11 am) **15/20**specimens collected
- **Troup** – Mon. (9 am – 2 pm) **33/27** specimens collected
- **Upson**- Wed. (9 am- 2 pm) **24/15**specimens collected

The Henry Heritage SPOC is being operated by Mako Medical Laboratory. This allows the health department personnel to work in the clinic or assist with planning and dispensing vaccine at the COVID point of distribution (POD). There is no cost to participants, but if the person has insurance, the lab will bill for the service. If insurance does not pay, the person does not receive a bill. Henry Heritage SPOC will operate every Saturday from 9 am – 12 pm.

As of 2/2, the Coweta SPOC is being operated by Mako Laboratory. Hours of operation Tues. & Thurs. 9-2 and every other Saturday 9 am -12 pm.

As of 3/16, the Carroll SPOC will be operated by Mako Laboratory. Hours of operation- Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9 am – 3 pm.

Due to the number of specimens continuing to decrease, beginning the week of 3/15, all SPOCs except those being operated by Mako (Carroll, Coweta & Henry) will operate once a month. This change will allow us to devote more resources to providing PODs as our vaccine supply increases. The operation dates and hours of all SPOCs will be posted on the county and district web pages, so all are aware of the closest location to seek COVID testing from a D4 SPOC.

### **COVID Vaccine for Board of Education Employees**

All D4 Boards of Education (BOE) have a plan in place for their employees to receive the COVID Vaccine. Butts, Coweta, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding & Troup Public Health staff is working with local school leaders to vaccinate those interested. Carroll, Fayette, and Upson BOE is working with their local hospital to get employees vaccinated. Henry BOE received approval to be a COVID Vaccine Provider; they will use their school nurses and support staff to vaccinate employees. Nurse Managers is also reaching out to private schools throughout D4.

### **COVID Vaccine Points of Dispensing (POD)**

Over the past week, Carroll and Heard Counties transitioned to the Microsoft Dynamics (MS) scheduling system for COVID Vaccine. Those who lack access to a computer/internet can still

call the 762-888-8180 to get an appointment. The plan is to transition all counties to the MS scheduling system over the next few weeks. Initially this system will slow down the process at the PODs. Once all staff are fully educated, we expect to return to the pre- MS pace. All PODs continue to be by appointment only. A team of temporary staff hired to make the appointments. The hours of the COVID Vaccine Call Center continue to be dependent upon the amount of vaccine D4 Counties receive. Upon being fully booked, it is advertised on-line, and a message is added to the appointment line to make all aware.

Listed below are the numbers of COVID Vaccine doses administered at each D4PH County POD as of 3/5/21. The amount of vaccine administered by each county continues to be dependent upon the amount of vaccine received. Note- the number listed for each county is not reflective of the number of residents per county that have received the vaccine; Georgia residents can receive their vaccine at any location throughout the state.

Butts - 2,176 doses administered  
Carroll – 4,807 doses administered  
Coweta – 7,239 doses administered  
Fayette – 5,477 doses administered  
Heard – 2,082 doses administered  
Henry – 4,569 doses administered  
Lamar – 4,223 doses administered  
Meriwether – 1,071 doses administered  
Pike – 1,473 doses administered  
Spalding – 7,345 doses administered  
Troup – 3,003 doses administered  
Upson – 2,180 doses administered  
Total doses administered as of 3/5/21 = 45,645

### **County Health Departments**

All services are being offered, but on a limited basis when the county has a POD scheduled. Employees and all who enter the buildings are encouraged to wear a mask, have temperature checked, and screened for illness.

### **Contact Tracing Team Summary for 2/20/2021 - 3/6/2021**

- Total # of calls made by District 4 Contact Tracers:
  - Total # of contact attempts (obtained from MTX report) = **1,780**
  - Total # of successful contacts (obtained from MTX report) = **990**
- Total # of individuals currently enrolled in monitoring ongoing (these individuals report by SMS or phone daily) = **508**
  - 474 engaged and no symptoms
  - 13 engaged and symptomatic
  - 21 not engaged
- Total # of individuals currently enrolled in manual monitoring = **32** (DPH calls these individuals daily during the duration of their monitoring/quarantine period per the contact's request)
  - 17 engaged and no symptoms

- 1 engaged and symptomatic
- 14 not engaged
- Total # of new contacts pending = **205** (contact for most of these individuals has been initiated/attempted, but no response as of now or they need additional follow-up)
- To date, **25,604** cases have been entered in the DPH Google MTX platform as of 3/6/2021
- Total # of case interviews completed by District 4 Case Investigators = **1,445**

**Staffing Summary as of 3/6/2021:**

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

**Continuity of Operations**

District 4 has had 256 employees tested/exposed to COVID-19 since March 2020.

Of those 256 employees:

12 were Exposed but not Tested

185 tested negative

59 tested positive

0 pending

87 employees have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

**Epidemiology**

16 Confirmed Outbreaks from 2/21/21 – 3/07/21

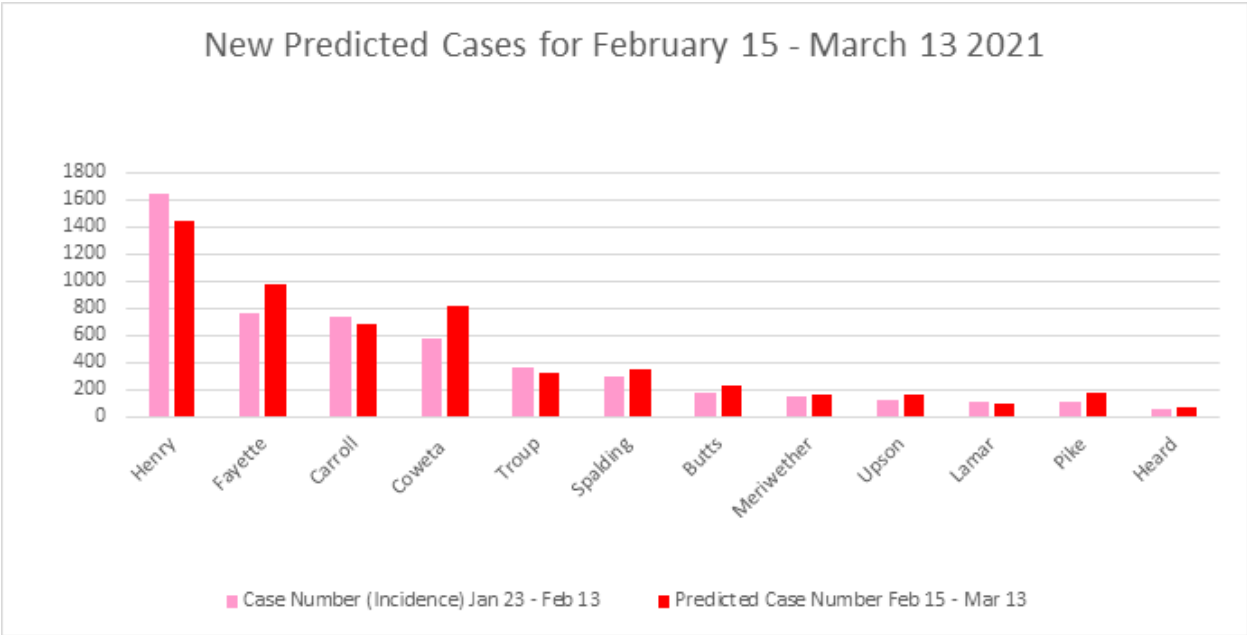
Numbers as of 4:00PM 3/07/2021

Confirmed and Presumptive COVID-19 Cases: 112413 median age: 42

Confirmed and Presumptive COVID-19 Deaths: 2524 median age: 76

	CASES	NEW CASES PAST TWO WEEKS	DEATHS	NEW DEATHS PAST TWO WEEKS
BUTTS	2027	+78	69	+2
CARROLL	7052	+171	124	+7
COWETA	8174	+396	158	+15
FAYETTE	6221	+380	144	+20
HEARD	598	+9	14	+1
HENRY	17418	+650	252	+16
LAMAR	1263	+40	39	+2
MERIWETHER	1436	+33	56	+13
PIKE	989	+24	21	+0
SPALDING	3698	+142	133	+9
TROUP	5604	+147	162	+4
UPSON	1727	+38	100	+4
Total	56207	+2108	1272	+93

The graph below shows the new predicted cases (red bar) based on CDC’s mathematical modeling for February 15 – March 13 2021 compared to the actual number of cases for January 23 – February 13 2021 for District 4 counties. For most counties, a slight decrease or stabilization in cases is predicted; however, some counties are seeing slight increases. Although cases are trending downward, case rates remain extremely high. The predictions below illustrate how important it is to continue adherence to COVID basics (wearing a mask in public, social distancing, and proper hand hygiene).



Demographics		No. Confirmed Cases	% Cases	No. Confirmed Cases (Last 30 days)	% Cases (Last 30 Days)	No. Hospitalized	% Hospitalized
Age	< 1	199	0.35	18	0.4	6	0.2
	1 to 4	802	1.43	96	2.0	16	0.6
	5 to 9	1173	2.09	138	2.9	6	0.2
	10 to 17	4244	7.55	461	9.6	38	1.4
	18-29	10896	19.39	822	17.1	142	5.1
	30-39	8263	14.70	666	13.9	201	7.2
	40-49	9009	16.03	798	16.6	316	11.3
	50-59	9282	16.51	813	16.9	522	18.7
	60-69	6311	11.23	531	11.0	577	20.7
	70-79	3723	6.62	306	6.4	584	20.9
	80+	2164	3.85	134	2.8	381	13.7
	Blank	138	0.25	23	0.5	2	0.1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>56204</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>4806</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>2791</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Race		No. Confirmed Cases	% Cases	No. Confirmed Cases (Last 30 days)	% Cases (Last 30 Days)	No. Hospitalized	% Hospitalized
	White						
	Black or African American	24666	43.9	2128	44.3	1390	49.8
	Asian	17285	30.8	1125	23.4	1199	43.0
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	740	1.3	102	2.1	18	0.6
	American Indian or Alaskan Native	44	0.1	5	0.10	2	0.1
	Other	49	0.1	1	0.02	2	0.0
	Unknown	2811	5.0	321	6.7	98	3.5
	Blank	10609	18.9	1124	23.4	82	2.9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>56204</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4806</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2791</b>	<b>99.9</b>

Ethnicity		No. Confirmed Cases	% Cases	No. Confirmed Cases (Last 30 days)	% Cases (Last 30 Days)	No. Hospitalized	% Hospitalized
	Hispanic						
	Non-Hispanic	3062	5.4	249	5.2	99	3.5
	Not Specified	36562	65.05	3136	65.25	2433	87.17
	Other	11200	19.9	976	20.3	139	5.0

	Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Blank	5380	9.6	445	9.3	120	4.3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>56204</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4806</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2791</b>	<b>100</b>

Demographics	No. Hospitalized (in cases from 30 day)	% Hospitalized (in cases from 30 day)	No. Confirmed Deaths	% Deaths	No. Confirmed Deaths (last in cases from 30 days)	% Deaths (in cases from 30 days)	
Age	< 1	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1 to 4	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
	5 to 9	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	10 to 17	5	2.5	1	0.1	0	0.0
	18-29	10	5.0	6	0.4	2	6.1
	30-39	7	3.5	27	2.0	0	0.0
	40-49	23	11.4	45	3.3	1	3.0
	50-59	31	15.4	114	8.3	0	0.0
	60-69	49	24.4	260	18.8	9	27.3
	70-79	45	2.0	395	28.6	7	21.2
	80+	26	12.9	531	38.5	13	39.4
	Blank	2	1.0	1	0.1	1	3.0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>201.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

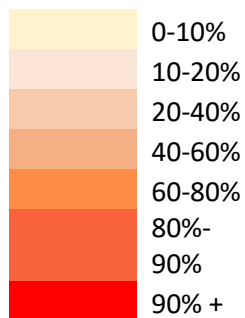
Race	No. Hospitalized	% Hospitalized	No. Confirmed Deaths	% Deaths	No. Confirmed Deaths	% Deaths
White	116.00	58	918	66.5	28	84.85
Black or African American	67.00	33	433	31	5	15
Asian	0.00	0.00	9	0.7	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1.00	0.50	0	0.0	0.00	0.0

American Indian or Alaskan Native		0.00	0	0.0	0.00	0.0
Other	9.00	4.48	16	1.2	0	0.0
Unknown	8.00	3.98	4	0.3	0.00	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

**Ethnicity**

Hispanic	5	2.49	28	2.0	0	0.0
Non-Hispanic Not Specified	181	90.05	1337	96.9	31	93.9
Other	7	3.48	6	0.4	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	8	3.98	9	0.7	2	6.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

**Legend:**



\*\* The colors above illustrate the burden in each category. A darker color indicates a higher burden.

The table above shows the cumulative case count, hospitalizations, and deaths based upon age range, race, and ethnicity specific to District 4 Public Health. Also shown is the, cases hospitalizations, and deaths for the last 30 days among these groups. It is important to note that this data is limited to what is reported into SENDSS, our electronic notifiable disease surveillance system. This data illustrates that District 4 is seeing the majority of cases in young and middle aged adults; however, our hospitalizations and deaths are still among the elderly. Therefore, it is likely that the younger population are contracting and spreading illness to the elderly, who experience more severe illness that may result in hospitalization and potentially death.

Cases are declining in many of the district’s counties; however, cases are still extremely high. Due to the continued high level of cases, we are continuing to see a significant number of deaths. Please remember to follow the COVID basics when going out in your community.



Although many are beginning to be vaccinated, the best defense we have to prevent spread of COVID is social distancing, wearing face coverings, and washing hands frequently.