



Kathleen Toomey MD, MPH, Commissioner | Brian Kemp, Governor

Beverley A. Townsend, MD, MBA, FAAFP
Interim District Health Director
301 Main Street, LaGrange, GA 30240
Phone: (706) 845-4035 • www.district4health.org



COVID-19 Response Summary March 22, 2021

Incident Command Briefing

The District continues its downward trend in weekly COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. It is expected that the current downward trend will continue into April. As testing continues to decrease, Public Health is urging all citizens, that if you are exposed or symptomatic please follow the Georgia Department of Public Health guidelines which includes testing: [COVID-19 Contact Guidance 3_9_2021.pdf](#)

Current groups eligible for the COVID vaccine can be found here: [COVID Vaccine | Georgia Department of Public Health](#).

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 Fridays from 8:00AM - 5:00 PM. To schedule an online appointment please visit: [Home - District 4 Public Health - Georgia Public Health Department \(district4health.org\)](#)

The District Operations Team continues to identify, manage, and deploy, district and county staff and public health volunteers. Currently, every county has a testing site and weekly vaccination clinic (dependent on vaccine availability). District 4 has created a Vaccine Intervention Team (VIT) to provide the vaccine to long-term care facilities, personal care homes and other identified vulnerable populations. The team will deploy to the location for first and second doses, locations are prioritized based on epidemiological 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 (19) and Long-Term Care Facilities (6) this past week.

This week's operational focus will be to continue 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 3/8 and 3/15

724 specimens collected by District 4 Specimen Points of Collection (SPOCs) over the past 2 weeks.

465 specimens collected 3/8 -13 and **259** collected 3/15-3/20/21.

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

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. Testing availability will be increased as needed.

COVID Vaccine Appointments

Heard County continues to use the Microsoft Dynamics (MS) scheduling system for COVID Vaccine; all issues seemed to be resolved. The plan is for Butts, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike and Upson to transition to MS scheduling system over the next week. Once these counties are successfully transitioned to the MS system, the remainder of D 4 Counties will make the transition. Initially this system will slow down the process at the Points of Dispensing (PODs). Once all staff are fully educated, we expect to return to the pre- MS pace. All PODs continue to be by appointment only.

In order to increase access to appointments, Carroll, Coweta, Fayette, Henry, Spalding, and Troup Counties will be using a different on-line appointment system until they transition to the MS system. The link to this system is <https://book.appointment-plus.com/d0zpg9mm/#/>.

Appointments are built for both systems as the clinics receive COVID Vaccine.

Those who lack access to a computer/internet can still call the 762-888-8180 to get an appointment. A team of temporary staff has been 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 3/19/21. 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 - 2,700 doses administered
Carroll – 5,829 doses administered
Coweta – 7,917 doses administered
Fayette – 6,951 doses administered
Heard – 2,568 doses administered
Henry – 5,696 doses administered
Lamar – 5,509 doses administered
Meriwether – 1,403 doses administered
Pike – 2,108 doses administered
Spalding – 10,057 doses administered
Troup – 4,500 doses administered
Upson – 2,500 doses administered
Total doses administered as of 3/19/21 = 57,738

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 3/6/2021– 3/20/2021

- Total # of calls made by District 4 Contact Tracers:
 - Total # of contact attempts (obtained from MTX report) = **1,761**
 - Total # of successful contacts (obtained from MTX report) = **1,027**
- Total # of individuals currently enrolled in monitoring ongoing (these individuals report by SMS or phone daily) = **399**
 - 365 engaged and no symptoms
 - 15 engaged and symptomatic
 - 19 not engaged
- Total # of individuals currently enrolled in manual monitoring = **39** (DPH calls these individuals daily during the duration of their monitoring/quarantine period per the contact's request)
 - 31 engaged and no symptoms
 - 1 engaged and symptomatic
 - 7 not engaged
- Total # of new contacts pending = **87** (contact for most of these individuals has been initiated/attempted, but no response as of now or they need additional follow-up)
- To date, **26,713** cases have been entered in the DPH Google MTX platform as of 3/20/2021
- Total # of case interviews completed by District 4 Case Investigators = **1,109**

Staffing Summary as of 3/20/2021:

- 1 PH RN
- 3 EPI

- 1 Resource Coordinator
- 1 Regional Coordinator (CDC/DPH)
- 56 Contact Tracers
- 5 Contact Tracer Supervisors
- 55 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

31 Confirmed Outbreaks from 3/07/21 – 3/21/21

Numbers as of 3:30PM 3/21/2021

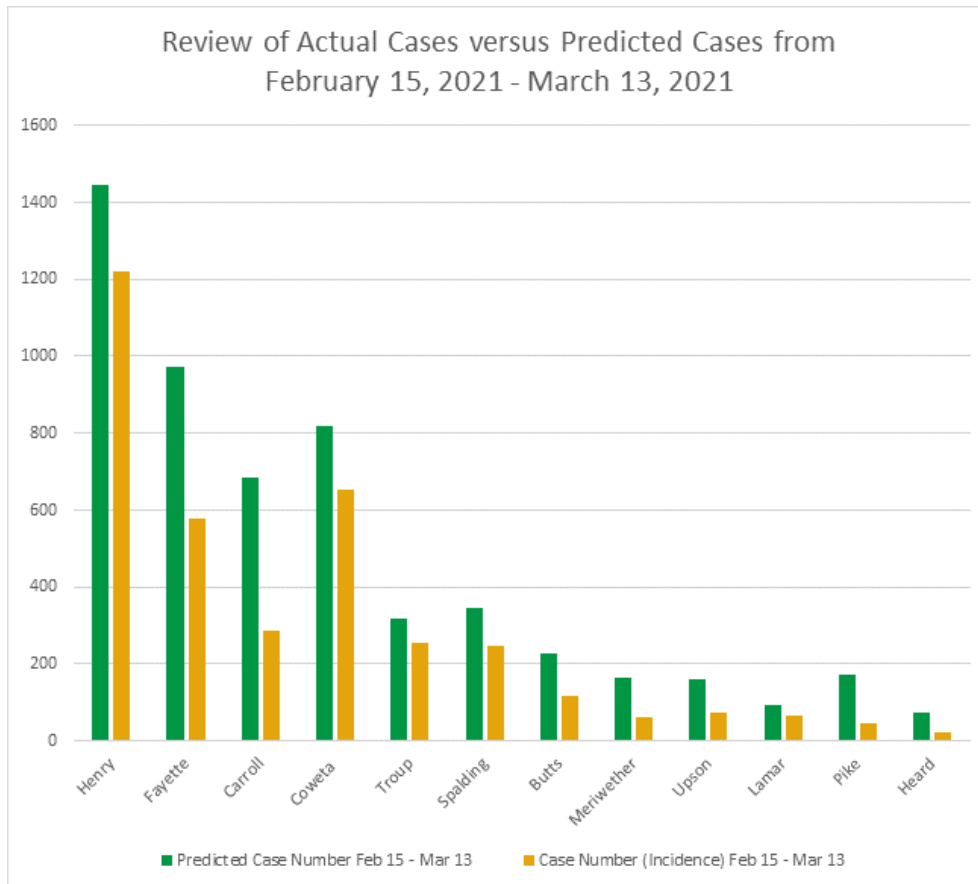
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases: 57458 median age: 42
 Confirmed COVID-19 Deaths: 1322 median age: 76

Numbers as of 2:50PM 3/21/2021

	CASES	NEW CASES PAST TWO WEEKS	DEATHS	NEW DEATHS PAST TWO WEEKS
BUTTS	2048	+21	71	+2
CARROLL	7130	+78	128	+4
COWETA	8340	+166	169	+11
FAYETTE	6343	+122	137	-7
HEARD	607	+9	14	+0
HENRY	17994	+576	266	+14
LAMAR	1281	+18	42	+3
MERIWETHER	1455	+19	60	+4
PIKE	1006	+17	23	+2
SPALDING	3796	+98	142	+9
TROUP	5700	+96	168	+6
UPSON	1753	+26	102	+2
Total	57453	+1246	1322	+50

There has been a significant decrease in cases as well as a decline in deaths the past 2 weeks. Also, it is important to note that as covid-related deaths are reviewed based on vital record data, death counts may change.

The graph below shows the predicted cases as well as the actual number of cases for February 15 – March 13, 2021 (based on CDC’s mathematical modeling) for District 4 counties. 100% of counties had cases below the prediction (green bar). From February 15 – March 13, 2021, there was a continued decline in testing, which may contribute to the lower case counts reported during this timeframe. Although cases are decreasing, it is important to remember that underreporting of cases as well as lack of testing still occurs.



Demographics	No. Confirmed Cases	% Cases	No. Confirmed Cases (Last 30 days)	% Cases (Last 30 Days)	No. Hospitalized	% Hospitalized	
Age	< 1	201	0.35	11	0.3	6	0.2
	1 to 4	823	1.43	67	2.0	16	0.6
	5 to 9	1202	2.09	85	2.5	7	0.2
	10 to 17	4346	7.56	315	9.2	41	1.4
	18-29	11160	19.42	651	19.1	146	5.1
	30-39	8483	14.76	517	15.1	208	7.2

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

	40-49	9217	16.04	564	16.5	330	11.5
	50-59	9492	16.52	585	17.1	541	18.8
	60-69	6424	11.18	344	10.1	593	20.6
	70-79	3778	6.57	185	5.4	598	20.8
	80+	2195	3.82	86	2.5	390	13.5
	Blank	141	0.25	6	0.2	3	0.1
TOTAL		57462	100.00	3416	100.00	2879	100.00

Race	White	25375	44.2	1538	45.0	1440	50.0
	Black or African American	17785	31.0	910	26.6	1239	43.0
	Asian	764	1.3	66	1.9	19	0.7
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	44	0.1	3	0.1	2	0.1
	American Indian or Alaskan Native	49	0.1	1	0.03	2	0.1
	Other	2871	5.0	189	5.53	99	3.4
	Unknown	10574	18.4	709	20.8	78	2.7
TOTAL		57462	100.0	3416	100.0	2879	100.0

Ethnicity	Hispanic	3118	5.4	158	4.6	101	3.5
	Non-Hispanic Not Specified	37616	65.5	2355	68.9	2520	87.5
	Other	11323	19.71	691	20.23	141	4.90
	Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Unknown	5405	0.0	212	0.0	117	4.1
TOTAL		57462	90.6	3416	93.8	2879	100.0
Demographics		No.	%	No.	% Deaths	No.	% Deaths (in cases from 30 days)
		Hospitalized (in cases from 30 day)	Hospitalized (in cases from 30 day)	Confirmed Deaths	% Deaths	Confirmed Deaths (last in cases from 30 days)	% Deaths (in cases from 30 days)

Age	< 1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	1 to 4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	5 to 9	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	10 to 17	5	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
	18-29	9	5.6	5	0.4	0	0.0

	30-39	11	6.8	27	2.0	0	0.0
	40-49	23	14.2	44	3.3	1	4.3
	50-59	32	19.8	110	8.3	1	4.3
	60-69	32	19.8	260	19.7	3	13.0
	70-79	31	2.0	388	29.3	8	34.8
	80+	18	11.1	486	36.8	10	43.5
	Blank	0	0.0	2	0.2	0	0.0
TOTAL		162.00	100.00	1322	99.8	23	100

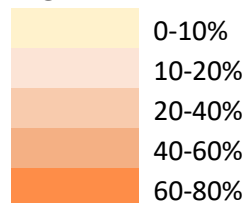
Race

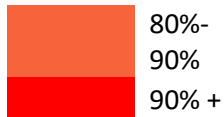
	White	88.00	54.3	877	66.3	21	91.30
	Black or African American	63.00	38.9	417	32	2	8.7
	Asian	0.00	0.00	10	0.8	0	0.0
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1.00	0.62	0	0.0	0.00	0.0
	American Indian or Alaskan Native						
	Other	7.00	4.32	16	1.2	0	0.0
	Unknown	3.00	1.85	2	0.2	0.00	0.0
TOTAL		162.00	100.00	1322	100.0	23	100

Ethnicity

	Hispanic	3.00	1.85	27	2.0	0.00	0.0
	Non-Hispanic	151.00	93.21	1286	97.3	22.00	95.7
	Not Specified	6.00	3.70	3	0.2	0.00	0.0
	Other	0.00	0.00	0	0.0	0.00	0.0
	Unknown	2.00	1.23	6	0.5	1.00	4.3
TOTAL		162.00	100.00	1322	100.00	23	100

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 at an extremely high level in terms of community transmission. As cases are continuing to decline, hospitalizations and deaths have begun to decrease. 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.