



THE SENTINEL

Reporting on Preparedness



Public Health

District 2 Public Health (North) • Emergency Preparedness • Gainesville, Georgia

Fall 2017

Volume 15 Issue 4

In This Issue

Drive thru flu clinics 1

INK preparedness fair 1

Statewide PHEP meeting 2



Alternative methods for flu clinics serve residents

Drive-through flu clinics offer a convenient, alternate method to traditional flu shot clinics. Drive up to the clinic, show your insurance card or self-pay, get your shot and be on your way - without leaving your car. For people with mobility issues or other health conditions that make walking a chore, it is a good way to get your flu shot. It is also convenient for people who are busy and have just a few minutes to spare in their schedule.

Lumpkin and Habersham Health Departments held drive-through clinics this year at their facilities. Franklin County held their drive-through clinic at Lavonia United Methodist Church. Patrons of the clinics expressed appreciation to the staff for making this method of vaccination available to them. In addition to drive through clinics, health

departments conducted clinics at businesses, schools, nursing homes and other locations.

Continued on page 2



Lumpkin Health Department staff enjoyed a warm, sunny day during their drive-through clinic.

Interactive Network for Kids hosts 5th annual preparedness fair



Everyone holds on tight to items as the Air Life helicopter exits the 5th Annual INK Personal and Family Preparedness Awareness Day in Gainesville on Sunday, September 24. District 2 Public Health along with other local emergency responders, spent the day showing residents the capabilities of equipment and discussing services available to the community. When kids registered, they

received backpacks to hold preparedness items given out by the participating agencies. Event organizers reported that approximately 400 people attended the event.

Gainesville Fire Department taught children and adults what to do during a house fire with their Smoke-house simulator. The department also had trucks on hand to demonstrate firefighting and life-saving equipment.



Franklin County's off-site flu clinic held at Lavonia United Methodist Church

Continued from page 1

These alternate site clinics offer the convenience of getting vaccinated without missing work or school, and help increase the number of vaccinated people in the community.

Health department staff are continually seeking new ways to add value to services. Offering more convenient ways for residents to receive services, like alternative methods for delivery of vaccinations, improves access to care. And by making sure more people are receiving disease-preventable vaccinations, public health is protecting the health of our communities.



District 2 PHEP team attends annual meeting in Athens, October 18-20

This year's Statewide Public Health Emergency Preparedness ESF-8 Meeting provided important program updates, as well as, presentations and discussions about activities from the past year. Dr. O'Neal, DPH Commissioner outlined the three priorities for public health and discussed how they relate to preparedness. The three priorities are early brain development, dealing with the opioid crisis, and developing a cardiac care system based on the trauma model of tiered health care facilities. These initiatives line up with community resiliency, community preparedness and recovery, and several of the other 15 capabilities required by the PHEP program.

During the meeting, greetings were extended to new employees and goodbyes were offered to those retiring. Of note is the retirement of Pam Blackwell, Emergency Preparedness Director in the Cobb-Douglas District, who has been with the public health emergency prepared-

ness program from the start. She has served more than 50 years as a nurse in public health, military, and hospitals. Dr. O'Neal and Scott Minarcine, Director of Public Health Emergency Preparedness presented Blackwell with a letter of appreciation.

Darrell Enfinger, District 7 Emergency Preparedness Director, discussed issues his district faced sheltering evacuees during Hurricane Irma. He focused on the importance of support for persons with medical and other needs. Mental health services, assistive technology, and addictive behaviors were the most problematic. He stressed that meeting the needs of people requiring insulin and oxygen are a challenge in situations where people are displaced from their homes or when they experience loss of power. Other needs identified include securing personal hygiene products, over-the-counter medications, formula

Continued on page 3



Habersham County holds drive through flu clinic October 2



Upper left: residents complete information and pay as they enter the drive-through line.

Lower left: Jan Poole, RN completes necessary paperwork. Above and below: Jan Poole, RN and Brooke Smith, RN wait to administer flu shots to residents.



District 2 PHEP team attends annual meeting in Athens, October 18-20

Continued from page 2

for infants and diabetic or special diet meals. Staffing issues were also addressed. Having enough trained nurses and staff to work during a shelter event is a concern that is being studied at both the local and state level.

Scott Minarcine, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director, stressed the importance of inviting ESF-8 partners to this meeting. Organizations like Regional Coordinating Hospitals can learn more about public health and the initiatives that we are working on. Additionally, attending this meeting is beneficial because plans, such as evacuating hospital patients and nursing home residents, can be reviewed and discussed by the group. This leads to a better understanding of plans and improving practices across the state. During recent events, this coordination worked well in the evacuation of medical needs patients to a receiving facility that was the best option for the patient. This eliminated having to move patients a second time.

The DPH legal department also held a discussion on HIPAA privacy during emergencies and disasters. The established rule is to release the minimum information necessary and only provide information to those who need it to perform their job. Clarification was also provided about organizations that are considered covered and non-covered entities.



Above: Dr. O'Neal, DPH Commissioner and Scott Minarcine, DPH Preparedness Director present Pam Blackwell with a letter of appreciation upon her retirement.



Interactive Network for Kids hosts 5th annual preparedness fair



Top left: Gainesville Police Department shows off some diverse equipment that helps them keep us safe.

Top right: Gainesville Fire Department demonstrates firefighting and safety equipment on two of their engines.

Middle left: The smokehouse is a good tool for teaching children what to do during a fire.

Middle right: Safe kids and Amerigroup provided information to parents about their programs.

Bottom: Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief demonstrates the safe (and noisy) method of chain saw operation. The children were particularly interested in getting a slice of the tree that the group was cutting.

THE SENTINEL

is a quarterly publication of District 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness 1280 Athens Street, Gainesville, Georgia 30577 770-535-5743

Pamela Logan, M.D., MPH, MA
District Health Director

Mark Palen
Emergency Preparedness Director

Donna Sue Campbell
Healthcare Liaison

Brandin Gillman
Training Coordinator

Katie Jerwers
EP Program Associate

Dave Palmer, Public Information Officer
Editor of The Sentinel