

Public Health

Reporting on Preparedness

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

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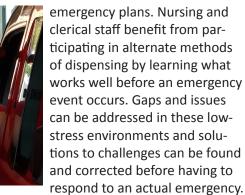


Five counties hold drive-through flu shot clinics

Drive -through flu shot clinics were held in five District 2 counties this year. The first clinic was September 20th at J.A. Walters YMCA in Gainesville, where workers braved ninety degree temperatures to vaccinate residents.

At right, Jessica Baker, RN administers a flu shot at the Lump-kin County drive-through clinic held September 21st. Turnout for

the event was good with a steady flow of clients throughout the day. Drive-through clinics are a convenient method of immunization for the population, and gives public health the opportunity to practice and exercise



These clinics are also helpful to the community's population because it offers a convenient and quick way to get the flu shot. Hopefully, offering various flu shot clinics will increase

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National Preparedness Month provides opportunities for community interaction

During September, the District 2 Emergency Preparedness team participated in several events to share information with residents. White County held a 'Touch a Truck' Family Safety, Health and Preparedness Fair at the Sautee Nacoochee Center. Children were able to see and touch emergency vehicles and learn how first responders use their equipment. Parents were able to learn about health and emergency response resources in the county and enjoy other fun activities with their families.



Ladder truck demonstration at White County Touch-a-Truck

In Hall County there were a couple of events that highlighted preparedness month. The Pre-K Preparatory Learning Academy provided a fun day of activities for children and adults. Many stopped by the District 2 display to pick up preparedness information and chat about steps



to make an emergency plan and kit for their family. Hall County Sheriff's Department also provided information.

The annual preparedness fair at Interactive Network for Kids drew a large crowd as responders from the area gathered to demonstrate emergency equipment. As usual, Gainesville Fire Department's 'smoke-house' got a lot of visitors. The life flight helicopter crew was also a favorite of the children, and many of the adults. The Geor-

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National Preparedness Month provides opportunities for community interaction





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gia Baptist Disaster Relief group demonstrated how they use chainsaws to help clear debris after storms. Northeast Georgia Medical Center showed children how to decontaminate someone with water. District 2 Public Health discussed family emergency plans and gave out information.







Five counties hold drive-through flu shot clinics

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the number of people who decide to get the flu shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expressed concern that more people need to be vaccinated to protect against a 'bad' flu season. During last year's flu season, the CDC estimated that as many as 86,000 deaths were caused by influenza and complications from the illness.



Lumpkin County Nurse Manager, Rachel Fields, RN (right) draws up doses of vaccine while Jessica Baker, RN prepares to administer the flu shot.



Above: Hall County Health Department staff prepares to give flu shots to a walk-up client as well as a drive through participant at the Gainesville YMCA.

Below: Stephens County staff held two drive through clinics. One at the Pointe Church, and later one at the health department.





Above and below: Habersham Health Department started at a brisk pace in the morning and even got some customers that weren't expecting to be vaccinated that day.





Above: Franklin County had perhaps the most beautiful day for a drive-though clinic with cool temperatures in the morning, and a high in the mid-seventies for the afternoon.



Annual Health Smart event held in Gainesville on October 18

District 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness was on hand at the annual HealthSmart event to discuss emergency preparedness with attendees. Health Smart is an initiative of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and addresses health issues that impact the local community. Local health providers are on hand to provide free health screenings and resource information. Topics for this year's event included Combating Opioid Abuse, Farm to Table Living, and Exercising for the Health of It. Most Fit Company awards were also given to local businesses. The event is open to the public. At right, Brandin Gillman, District 2 Training Coordinator, is ready to greet attendees.



Ongoing Incident Command System training vital for responders

District 2 Emergency Preparedness supports the Georgia Department of Public Health, Incident Command System (ICS) 300/400 classes that are taught in District Public Health/Healthcare Coalition areas around the state. The most recent class was held in Brunswick in the Coastal Health District/Region J, and included the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) troopers who support Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) operations throughout the state, as well as partners from Georgia Department of Transportation, Region J Healthcare Coalition, state and local public health, and local EMS and fire. The five day class promoted interoper-

ability between agencies having SNS responsibilities, as well as the role of Incident Management Teams (IMT) in responding to expanding incidents and events.

During the class, students are given various challenging emergency scenarios. Then as a group, students have the opportunity to discuss how their agency would to respond to the incident. As seen in the photos, players wear vests to identify their roles, just like during an actual incident. Students record notes on charts and then share their information during report outs to the group.





THESENTINEL

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