



General Notifiable Diseases & Sexually Transmitted Infections

Common Notifiable Diseases

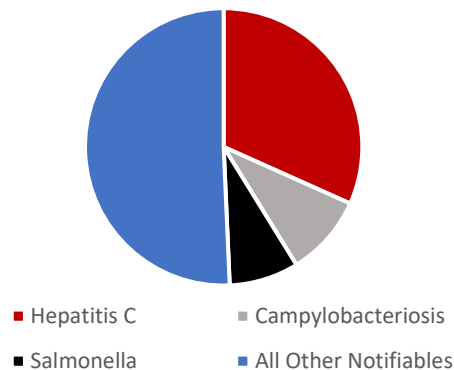


Figure 1. Pie chart of reported notifiable disease cases over time in District 2 from July to September (2023).

Sexually Transmitted Infections

For the third quarter, there were 284 confirmed cases for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis: 77 in July, 81 in August, and 126 in September. This was a 30.9% increase since the last quarter, which had 217 new cases. In particular, chlamydia had increased between the second and third quarters by 28.4%.

Chlamydia is a common STD that causes infections in men and women through vaginal, oral, or anal sex. If untreated, a chlamydia infection can cause permanent damage to the female reproductive system and result in infertility. Having this disease also increases the likelihood of an early delivery for the baby and may infect the child during birth.

Sexual monogamy and proper condom use are easy ways to lower risk of chlamydia. More information on STIs and prevention can be found [here](#) on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website. Confidential testing and treatment services are also available at all [county health departments in District 2](#).

General Notifiable Diseases

From July to September of 2023, 419 general notifiable disease cases were reported. The top three diseases most reported were Hepatitis C (31.7%), campylobacteriosis (9.5%), and salmonellosis (8.1%). Of these positive Hepatitis C tests, most are from existing chronic Hepatitis C patients. Both campylobacteriosis and salmonellosis are common summertime foodborne diseases that may be mitigated with proper hand hygiene and food storage techniques. To avoid Hepatitis C infections (HCV), it is best to reduce behaviors that may put you in contact with the blood of an infected person. According to the Georgia Department of Public Health (GA DPH), HCV testing is recommended at least once for all adults 18 or older and for [certain groups](#).

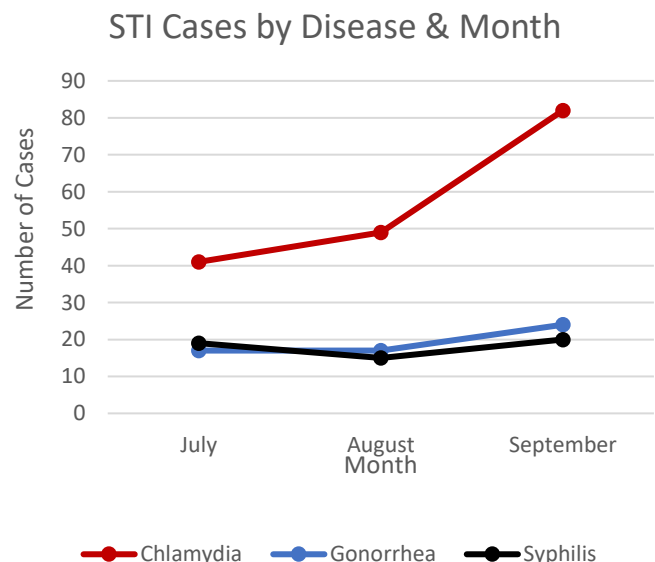


Figure 2. Line graph of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis cases over time in District 2 from July to September (2023).

COVID-19, Seasonal Watch, & Disease Reporting

COVID-19 Outbreaks by Location
& Number Ill

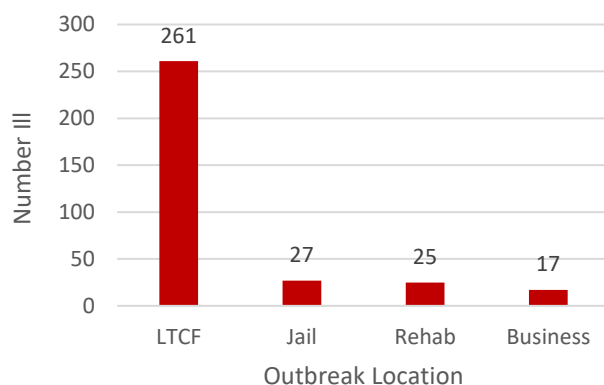


Figure 3. Bar graph of reported COVID-19 outbreak cases by setting in District 2 from July to September (2023).

COVID-19 Outbreaks & Prevention

Between July and September, there were 36 outbreaks of COVID-19 in District 2 that caused 330 people to become ill. Half of these outbreaks originated in long-term care facilities (LTCFs), and 13 (36.1%) of outbreaks took place in either a business or jail setting. 3 (8.3%) outbreaks occurred in rehabilitation facilities.

To avoid getting sick from COVID-19, the [CDC](#) recommends regular handwashing, staying up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines, and avoiding contact with those who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Guidance for Fall: Immunizations

Get ready! October marks the start of flu season and the spread of other respiratory viruses such as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) alongside COVID-19. Each year, between 5% and 20% of Americans catch seasonal influenza, and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu-related complications. RSV is another common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms but can be dangerous for infants and older adults. Signs of COVID-19 can include sudden onset of fever, chills, cough or shortness of breath, and loss of taste or smell.

Health authorities recommend getting an updated flu vaccine for those that are 6 months or older. Those who are 32-36 weeks pregnant and infants less than 8 months old can receive RSV immunizations. Children with high risk of severe RSV illness can also receive the vaccine on a case-by-case basis. Those age 60 and over should consult with their doctor on whether they should also get an RSV vaccine. Those 5 years or older can receive an updated (2023-2024) COVID-19 vaccine to prevent serious illness from COVID-19. For more information on these recommendations, please review the updated guidelines [here](#). All local health departments in District 2 offer [vaccine services](#).

Disease Reporting

Information on disease reporting can be found on the GA DPH website under the [Notifiable Disease Reporting Requirements](#) section. All notifiable diseases should be reported within 7 days or sooner.

Immediate Reporting	Reporting Within 7 Days
Phone: (770) 519-7661 Public Health Line: 1-(866) 782-4584	Email: DPHDistrict2epi@gets.onmicrosoft.com
Fax: (770) 535-5848	Online: State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS)