



Sexually Transmitted Infections & General Notifiable Diseases

Sexually Transmitted Infections

For the third quarter, there were 230 confirmed cases for chlamydia, 61 for gonorrhea, and 56 for syphilis. This total of 347 new cases was a 22.2% increase since the last quarter, which had 284 confirmed cases. Of the 347 cases, 33 (9.5%) were adolescents between the ages of 14 and 17 years old. Among these adolescents, 27 (81.8%) were diagnosed with chlamydia, 4 (12.1%) had gonorrhea, and 2 (6.1%) had syphilis.

Congenital Syphilis

Syphilis is a bacterial infection with multiple stages and severity. When a pregnant mother with syphilis transmits the infection to her baby, this is known as congenital syphilis (CS). Lately, CS cases have been increasing across the US. A baby with CS can have extreme symptoms, including bone malformations, nervous system damage, premature birth, and severe anemia. Sometimes, the baby is stillborn. Pregnant women should be tested for syphilis at their 1st prenatal visit and during the 28th-32nd weeks of their 3rd trimester, to ensure timely and proper treatment is received.

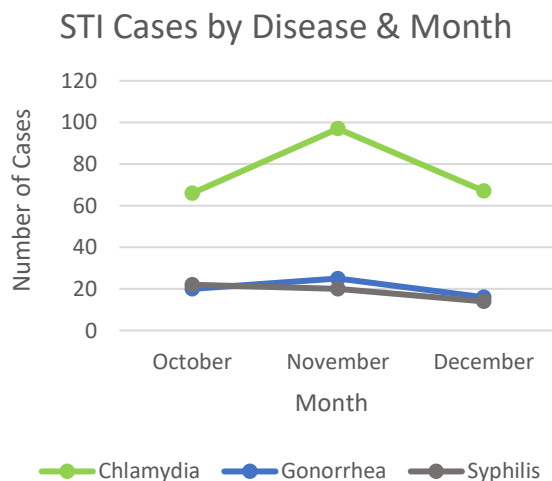


Figure 1. Line graph of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis cases over time in District 2 from October to December (2023).

Proper treatment during pregnancy, especially early on, greatly decreases the chance that a syphilis infection will be passed from mother to baby. CS is preventable with proper prenatal care. More information 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

The Epidemiology Department of District 2 Public Health regularly conducts follow-ups with health facilities upon receiving reports for any notifiable disease. From October to December of 2023, 429 general notifiable disease cases were reported. Aside from Hepatitis B (reported = 28, confirmed = 24) and C (reported = 184, confirmed = 0) viruses, another top pathogen was invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (reported = 28, confirmed = 27), which experienced more than a 150% increase from the previous quarter.

In the case of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (Strep Pneumo), infections are most common during the winter and early spring. Most transmission happens through direct person-to-person contact via respiratory droplets. Many life-threatening infections can occur if left untreated, however: pneumonia, blood infections, and meningitis (among others). The best way to prevent disease from Strep Pneumo is through [vaccination](#).

Common Notifiable Diseases

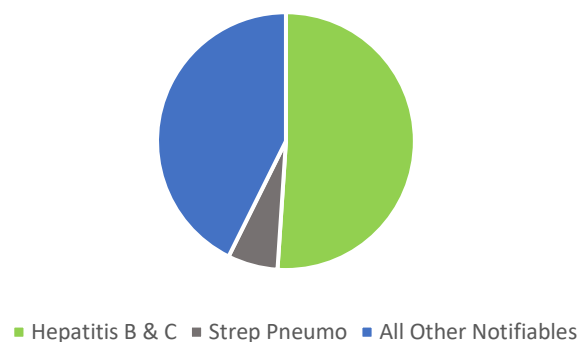
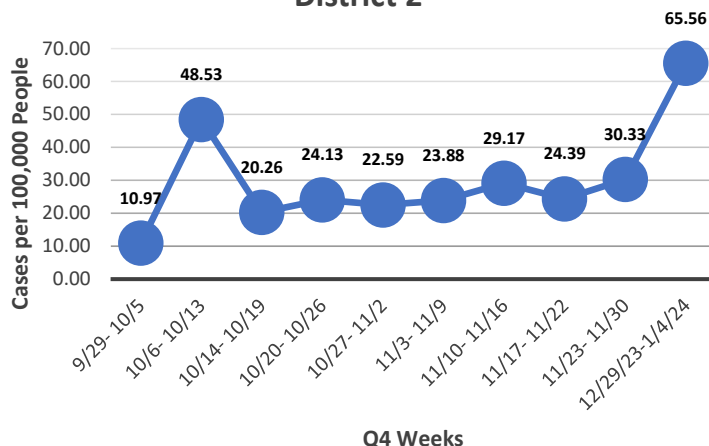


Figure 2. Pie chart of reported notifiable disease cases over time in District 2 from October to December (2023).

Viral Respiratory Diseases & Measles

COVID-19 Weekly Case Rate in District 2



Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV

Watch out! Respiratory disease has been on the rise since last quarter. According to the Georgia Department of Public Health (GA DPH), flu activity in the state had been categorized as very high (13 on the scale from 1-13) by the end of December. The weekly case rate of COVID-19 had also risen by almost 500% from about 11 cases per 100,000 in the start of October to about 66 cases per 100,000. RSV cases have increased greatly as well since the start of the last quarter.

To reduce risk of serious illness from these respiratory viruses, it is recommended

to stay updated on available immunizations and practice proper precautions such as regular handwashing and avoiding people who are sick. Health authorities recommend getting an updated flu vaccine for those 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. Those age 60 and over should consult with their doctor on whether they should also get an RSV vaccine. Those who are 5 years or older should receive an updated (2023-2024) COVID-19 vaccine to prevent serious illness. For more information on these recommendations, please review the current guidelines [here](#). All local health departments in District 2 offer [vaccine services](#).

Measles

On 01/18/2024, GA DPH confirmed a case of measles in an unvaccinated resident of the metro Atlanta area. The individual was exposed to measles while traveling abroad. The last reported case of measles in Georgia was in 2020. Measles can be prevented with the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine, which is safe and effective. The CDC recommends children receive their first dose of MMR vaccine between 12-15 months of age and a second dose between 4-6 years old. More than 95% of the people who receive a single dose of MMR will develop immunity to all three viruses. A second dose boosts immunity, typically enhancing protection to 98%. For more information, please [view the GA DPH notice here](#).

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)