



EPI-Center

Newsletter of District 2 Epidemiology Department
Volume 4 Issue 3 | 2025: July - September



Outlook on Outbreaks

Overview

Between July and September this year, there were 19 outbreak investigations conducted by the Epidemiology (EPI) Department. The top three diseases were as follows, with five outbreaks reported per disease:

- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE)*
- *Candida auris**

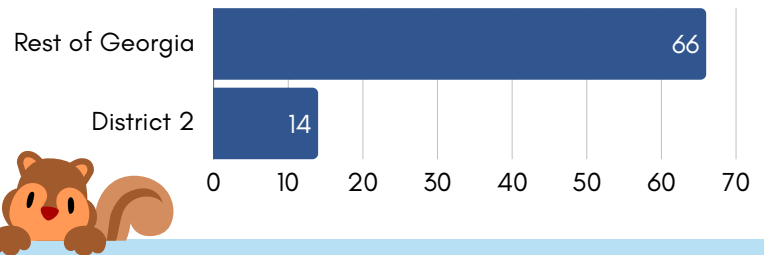
*One case occurring in a healthcare setting is classified as an outbreak.

In addition to the above, the EPI Department has been working with healthcare facilities to respond to *Legionella* outbreaks in Hall and Habersham counties.

Legionella and Legionnaires' Disease

Legionella is type of bacteria associated with standing water (water that has not been disturbed for a long time) and can cause a severe form of pneumonia called Legionnaires' disease when breathed in. Common symptoms include cough, fever, shortness of breath. For more information, please refer to the [GA DPH](#) and [CDC](#) webpages.

Graph of District *Legionella* versus the Rest of GA

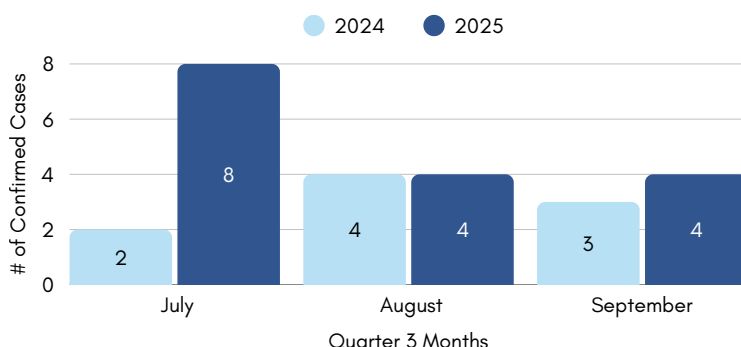


Seasonal Highlight: Respiratory Disease in District 2

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

For the previous quarter, our district reported 16 confirmed cases of pertussis, up from 9 in the same period last year. Pertussis often begins with allergy or cold-like symptoms with possible fever, but it can progress to severe coughing fits and vomiting. The CDC recommends for everyone to stay up to date on pertussis immunizations. For more, check out the [CDC](#) and [GA DPH](#) pages on whooping cough.

Confirmed Cases of Pertussis in District 2 from July to September, 2024-2025



Influenza-Like Illness Season

Flu, RSV, and COVID-19 all fall under the category of influenza-like illness (ILI) since they are all respiratory viruses that cause similar symptoms (fever, cough, etc.). With the weather getting colder as we head into the holidays, we will start seeing more ILI as well. The best way to prevent ILI from spreading is to take precautions like proper handwashing, staying up to date on immunizations, and keeping away from others when you do get sick. After illness, you should return to normal activities ONLY if (1) you have not had a fever in the past 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication AND (2) your symptoms are getting better. Stay safe this ILI season!





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Community Outreach

Community Events

Big event in the previous quarter? From Hall to Towns, you might have seen our Communicable Disease Specialists (CDS) wearing bright green and providing education, testing, and other resources:

- Aug. 19: North GA Tech – Clarkesville Campus
- Aug. 21: Young Harris Resource Fair
- Aug. 28: Piedmont University
- Sept. 16: Lanier Tech Resource/Wellness Event
- Sept. 19: Stephens Recovery

For up-to-date info on upcoming events, please visit the [District 2 webpage](#) or call the EPI Department at (770) 535-5743 ext. 2600.



Updates and Reminders

Webpage Update

Our department recently revamped our webpage with cool new content. Check it out [here](#)!

Immunizations for Respiratory Season

Remember that it's still not too late to get your immunizations! All county health departments in District 2 offer vaccine services, so reach out today!

Survey Still Active!

We need to hear from you! The [community survey is still active](#) and will remain so until the end of this year, so let us know your thoughts!



And lastly, as we head into the holiday season, [keep food safety in mind!](#)

Notifiable Disease Reporting

By law (OCGA 31-12-2), all healthcare providers and laboratories in the state of Georgia must report positive test results for certain notifiable diseases or conditions. For more information on disease reporting, please visit the [GA DPH webpage](#).

- [Reporting Form](#)
- [General Reporting Requirements](#)

For *immediate reporting*, reach out through the following methods:

- District 2 EPI Phone: (770) 519-7661
- Public Health Line: (866) PUB-HLTH or (866) 782-4584
- District 2 Fax: (770) 535-5845

For *reporting within 7 days*, reach out via:

- Email: dphdistrict2epi@gets.onmicrosoft.com
- Online: [State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System \(SENDSS\)](#)
- District 2 EPI Phone: (770) 519-7661
- District 2 Fax: (770) 535-5845