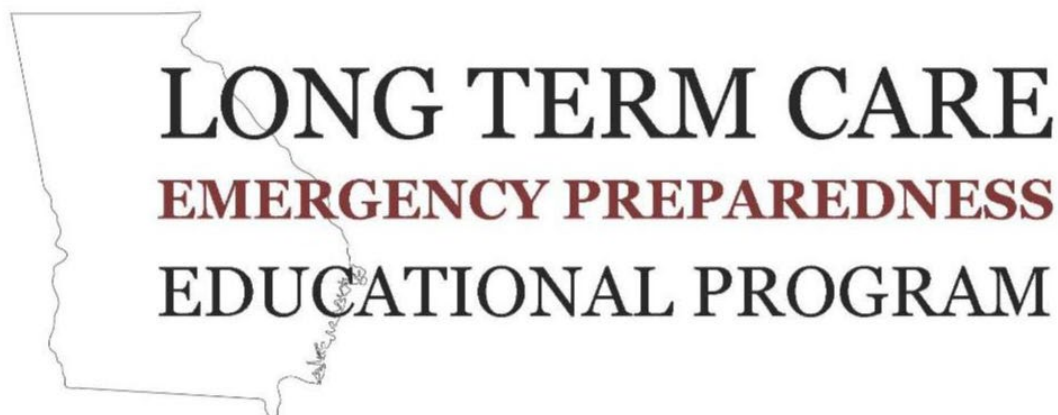


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A horizontal band with a microscopic, cellular background in shades of teal and blue. Below this band is a solid blue background containing the main title.

LTC Emergency Preparedness Digest

Quarterly Newsletter – Winter 2019

This quarterly e-newsletter is designed to provide Long Term Care facilities with information on facility-level emergency preparedness programs, recent events, conference opportunities, and upcoming classes around Georgia.

Georgia's Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness Educational Program is funded through Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



We have a new **LTCEPEP web page!** Click the button below to view our course descriptions, schedule, previous newsletters, and more. Feel free to share this resource with your colleagues.

[Click Here for LTCEPEP Web Page](#)

Winter Focus Area: Emerging Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases are always a concern, especially this time of the year. With a large influenza outbreak in the United States and a coronavirus outbreak affecting China and several other countries, now is the time to remind staff to practice healthy hygiene.

CMS Appendix Z Emerging Infectious Diseases

February 1, 2019:

CMS provided updates to CMS Appendix Z, including the addition of emerging infectious diseases to the

definition of an all-hazards approach.

"An **all-hazards approach is an integrated approach to emergency preparedness** that focuses on identifying hazards and developing emergency preparedness capacities and capabilities that can address those as well as a wide spectrum of emergencies or disasters... Planning for using an **all-hazards approach should also include emerging infectious disease (EID) threats. Examples of EIDs include Influenza, Ebola, Zika Virus and others.** All facilities must develop an all-hazards emergency preparedness program and plan."

E-004:

The [facility] must comply with all applicable Federal, State and local emergency preparedness requirements. The [facility] must develop establish and maintain a comprehensive emergency preparedness program that meets the requirements of this section.

(a) Emergency Plan. The [facility] must develop and maintain an emergency preparedness plan that must be [reviewed], and updated at least annually. The plan must include but is not limited to:

- Natural disasters
- Man-made disasters
- Facility-based disasters that include but are not limited to:
 - Care-related emergencies;
 - Equipment and utility failures, including but not limited to power, water, gas, etc.;
 - Interruptions in communication, including cyber-attacks;
 - Loss of all or portion of a facility; and
 - Interruptions to the normal supply of essential resources, such as water, food, fuel (heating, cooking, and generators), and in some cases, medications and medical supplies (including medical gases, if applicable).
 - **EIDs such as Influenza, Ebola, Zika Virus and others.**
 - **These EIDs may require modifications to facility protocols to protect the health and safety of patients, such as isolation and personal protective equipment (PPE) measures.**

Identify, Isolate, Inform

Identify

Identify residents with a potential infectious disease exposure

- Ask about recent travel history
- Ask friends or family, if necessary
- Determine if the resident has symptoms compatible with suspected infectious disease

Isolate

- If a resident with exposure history & symptoms is identified:
 - **Isolate the resident** in an area away from everyone
 - In a private room with a private bathroom if possible

Inform

- For infectious diseases such as influenza, inform your facility's infection control nurse and/or local Department of Public Health
- **For infectious diseases such as Zika or Ebola,**
 - **call 1-866-PUB-HLTH**
 - ask to speak to the medical epidemiologist or med epi
 - tell them you have a possible infectious disease case

The National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC), offers a free online course on Identify, Isolate, Inform. Click this link to learn how to handle a patient under investigation for Ebola or other special pathogens. <https://courses.netec.org/courses/pui-101>

Identify, Isolate, Inform Flyer

PPE Precautions

There are several personal protective equipment (PPE) profiles or precautions, each offering different levels of protection in accordance with the corresponding infectious disease.

Standard Precautions

- Wash Hands
- Wear Gloves
- Wear Mask and Eye/Face Protection

- Wear Protective Clothing
- Flush area of exposure

Droplet Precautions

- Standard Precautions **PLUS:**
 - Wear N-95 Respirator
 - Wear Eye/Face Protection
 - Isolate resident in private room
 - Place surgical mask on resident
- Examples: Ebola, Influenza

Contact Precautions

- Standard Precautions **PLUS:**
 - Wear Gloves
 - Wear Protective Clothing
 - Isolate resident in private room
 - Change gloves and wash hands between tasks on the same resident
- Examples: MRSA, Shingles

Airborne Precautions

- Standard Precautions **PLUS:**
 - Wear N-95 Respirator
 - Wear Eye/Face Protection
 - Place surgical mask on resident
 - Place resident in Negative Pressure room
- Examples: Measles, Tuberculosis (TB)

Refer to our Resources section below for Precaution Flyers to download, print, and post on resident room doors or include in staff training.

Protection starts with Prevention

This flu season, protect your residents, staff, and their families with these healthy habits:

- Wash hands frequently
- Limit contact with others who are sick
- Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently
- Get your annual flu vaccine
- Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing
- Stay home when sick
- Thoroughly wash tableware



Infectious Diseases in the News

Georgia

Georgia is the sickest state in the United States according to a recent report by Kinsa Health. Georgia is experiencing a long battle with the flu with 7.78% of its population falling ill. Since January 11, 2020 there have been 21 flu-related deaths in Georgia for the 2019-2020 flu season.

Click [here](#) for the CDC's influenza information center.

Click [here](#) for the article citing the report by Kinsa Health.



United States and Abroad

As of February 6, 2020, over 28,000 people worldwide have been infected with a novel coronavirus originating in Wuhan, China. Wuhan, a city of 11 million people, has been closed off by the Chinese government to prevent further spread. Overall, China has reported 564 deaths related to the coronavirus.

In the United States there are 12 confirmed cases of the coronavirus, most after recent travel to Wuhan. Sixteen healthcare workers have been infected while caring for patients.

Symptoms range from cold and flu-like to difficulty breathing, pneumonia, and lung lesions.

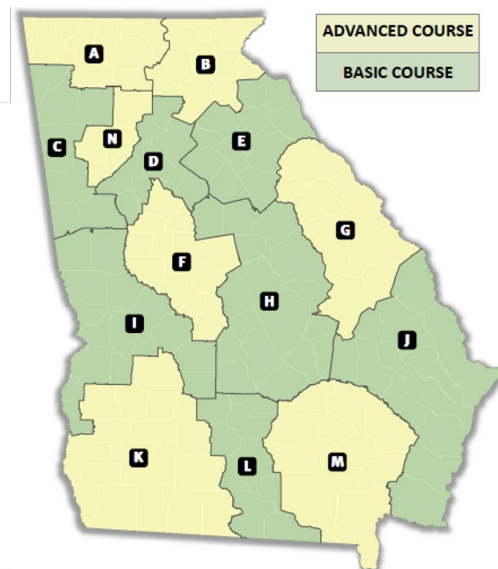
Click [here](#) to read the article.



Upcoming Events

We are starting to schedule Year Three LTCEP Courses and will release those dates in our Spring Newsletter, on our webpage, and Facebook page in April 2020.

There is one more LTCEP - Advanced Courses being offered in Georgia for Year Two. Click the button below to download our course schedule flyer or keep scrolling for specific course information.



Click [HERE](#) for Full Course Schedule

CMS LTCEPEP Advanced Course

February 11, 2020

Region B: Gainesville, GA

Ramsey Center (Lanier Technical College)

2535 Lanier Tech Drive, Gainesville, GA 30507

Register: www.tinyurl.com/LTCEPEP2019B

EMAG Conference Sponsorship Opportunity



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION of GEORGIA

a moving force in emergency management

The Georgia LTCEPEP is sponsoring 60 Engineering/Maintenance Directors for Certified Long Term Care Facilities to attend the annual Emergency Management Association of Georgia Conference. The next EMAG Conference will be held in Savannah, GA on April 15-17, 2020.

Registration preference will be given to those who have attended a Basic Course and/or Advanced Course and who have not been previously sponsored by the GA LTCEPEP to attend EMAG.

Contact GeorgiaLTC@uga.edu to add your name to the EMAG interest list today!

Resources

Family/Home Preparedness: www.ready.gov/georgia

Find your Local Emergency Management Agency (EMA):

www.gema.georgia.gov/locations

Find your Healthcare Coalition (HCC): www.gha911.org

Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA): www.ghca.info/

Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program

(HSEEP): https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1914-25045-8890/hseep_apr13_.pdf

Regional Calendar for upcoming events and trainings: www.gha911.org/coalition-information/

Free Online FEMA Courses on Emergency Preparedness Exercises:

- **IS 120.c** - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-120.c>
- **IS 139.a** - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-139.a>

Free Online NETEC Course on Identify, Isolate, Inform:

<https://courses.netec.org/courses/pui-101>

Contact Precautions Flyer:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/f2519b596f4c3f87efb700b0a/files/235c988f-3342-4ed6-b7b1-a9af7f76de45/contact_precautions_sign_P.pdf

Droplet Precautions Flyer:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/f2519b596f4c3f87efb700b0a/files/8da130b1-7fe0-4622-ab6e-5b7d53d0d697/droplet_precautions_sign_P.pdf

Airborne Precautions Flyer:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/f2519b596f4c3f87efb700b0a/files/e6d10293-10cc-4af8-96e3-6bbc56a59b40/airborne_precautions_sign_P.pdf

Contact Us



Institute for Disaster Management
College of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

If you have any questions about the e-newsletter, upcoming events, or course registration, please contact us at georgialtc@uga.edu



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Grant #: 18044G (CMP REQUEST #: 2017-04-GA-1219)

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