



PRESS RELEASE

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 March 15, 2021

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Weekly COVID-19 Update

The cumulative number of reported cases in the West Central Health District is 25,532. The number of cases in the last two weeks is 632. The number of deaths from the virus currently stands at 719.

County	Cases	Cases in the last 2 wks.		County	Cases	Cases in the last 2 wks.	
		Cases	Deaths			Cases	Deaths
Chattahoochee	2,812	145	10	Quitman	78	2	1
Clay	180	0	3	Randolph	459	6	32
Crisp	1,329	13	47	Schley	204	2	4
Dooly	759	16	30	Stewart	771	9	22
Harris	2054	57	50	Sumter	1774	15	88
Macon	586	10	23	Talbot	369	6	17
Marion	382	6	16	Taylor	490	4	20
Muscogee	13,184	337	352	Webster	101	4	4

For more information, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>.

Georgia is now vaccinating:

- Healthcare workers (physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, EMS personnel, environmental services, etc.)
- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
- Adults aged 55 and older, and caregivers
- Law enforcement, firefighters, first responders
- Educators and staff (Pre-K, K-12, DECAL licensed or exempt childcare programs)
- Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers
 - Intellectual Disability is a disability characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills. This disability originates before the age of 22.
 - A developmental disability is a physical or mental impairment that happens before the age of 22, is expected to last a lifetime, and impacts at least three activities of daily living. Activities of daily living include self-care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; capacity for independent living; and economic self-sufficiency.
- Parents of children with complex medical conditions who are at high risk for COVID complications, such as:
 - Malignancies requiring active treatment
 - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) including organ transplant (bone marrow or solid organ) within 2 years
 - Critical congenital heart disease

- Asthma (moderate to severe)
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Diabetes
 - Obesity (BMI >95%)
 - Cystic fibrosis
 - Significant neurologic injury or condition (e.g. hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, traumatic brain injury, congenital anomaly, acute flaccid myelitis) with functional/developmental impairment (e.g. cerebral palsy, developmental disability, prematurity, mitochondrial disease)
 - Technology dependence (e.g. BiPAP, trach)
- Individuals with disabilities
 - Individuals aged 16 years* and older with certain medical conditions that increase their risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Conditions include:
 - Asthma
 - Cancer
 - Cerebrovascular Disease
 - COPD
 - Cystic Fibrosis
 - Diabetes
 - Hypertension
 - Heart Conditions
 - Immunocompromised State
 - Liver Disease
 - Neurologic Conditions
 - Overweight and Obesity
 - Pulmonary Fibrosis
 - Sickle Cell Disease
 - Thalassemia

*Note: The Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine is approved for use in anyone 16 years of age and older. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for use in anyone 18 years of age and older.

To register for the vaccine, visit www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com or call the COVID-19 Call Center, 706-653-6613. Only those in the categories above will be notified for an appointment.

When to get tested:

If a person has been exposed (*in close contact for more than total of 15 minutes*) to someone who tested positive for Covid-19, but **does not have symptoms**, that person should remain in quarantine for 14 days, and **wait at least 10 days to be tested**. If a person is symptomatic, or symptoms begin before day 10, then that person should be tested at that time. **Please note that even if your test results are negative, you still must remain in quarantine for the entire 14 days.**

Anyone wishing to be tested should register by visiting www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com, or calling the West Central Health District COVID-19 Call Center, at 706-653-6613. Hours for the Call Center are Monday – Saturday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. There is no charge for testing at any location.

Testing is held in the parking lot behind the former Columbus Health Department, on 11th Avenue and Center Street. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. No Saturday testing. Sunday testing is held at Renew Health Clinic, 2022 10th Avenue, Suite B, Columbus, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Drive-thru testing at all County Health Departments, **weather permitting:**

Chattahoochee Cusseta	Tuesday *No testing March 16th, 23rd	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	706-989-3663
Clay Fort Gaines	2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays	9:30 am to 11:30 am	229-768-2355
Crisp - off-site J.R Dowdy Building, 1129 N 5th Street, Cordele	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	8:30 am to 11:30 am	229-276-2680
Dooly Vienna	Monday and Wednesday	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	229-268-4725
Harris Hamilton	Tuesday and Friday	9:00 am to 11:00 am	706-628-5037
Macon Oglethorpe	Thursday	1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	478-472-8121
Marion Buena Vista	Monday *No testing March 22nd	8:00 am to 12:00 pm	229-649-5664
Quitman Georgetown	1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays *No testing March 16th	9:30 am to 11:30 am	229-334-3697
Randolph Cuthbert	Monday	9:30 am to 11:30 am	229-732-2414
Schley Ellaville	Monday	9:00 am to 11:00 am	229-937-2208
Stewart Lumpkin	Wednesday	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	229-838-4859
Sumter Americus	Monday and Wednesday	9:00 am to 10:00 pm	229-924-3637
Talbot Talbotton	Monday	8:30 am to 11:30 am	706-786-6410
Taylor Butler	Tuesday	8:30 am to 11:30 am	478-862-5628
Webster Preston	Monday	1:00 pm to 3:30 pm	229-828-3225

We urge all individuals to practice these prevention measures:

- **Wear a mask or cloth face covering when you go to a public place.**
- **Remember social distancing:** six feet between you and the person closest to you.
- **Wash your hands** often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Get a flu shot!** Recommended for anyone six months of age or older.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Stay home** when you are sick.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces.

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