North Central Health District
COVID-19 Operational Summary
August 31, 2020

This is an emerging and dynamic situation, therefore our data and recommendations are subject to change. North Central Health District (NCHD) is part of the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and serves individuals residing in 13 Central Georgia counties: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Putnam, Twiggs, Washington, and Wilkinson. This report describes the NCHD operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of this report is to provide situational awareness to our district partners and community members.

Workforce

NCHD has a total of 314 employees. Since before the response to COVID-19 started, NCHD staff have been planning and preparing for the response. In January 2020, the Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness programs began watching the situation closely, educating partners, and monitoring travelers. Today, we have scaled back our normal operations to be able to respond to this event appropriately and have employees dedicated full time to the response with many additional employees assisting on an as-needed basis. Public health staff are working on a variety of tasks from epidemiology (which includes data management, case investigation, contact tracing, and outbreak investigations), PPE Distribution, Partner Coordination, SPOC operations, and ensuring our regulated facilities are operating according to the newest executive order. In addition to our workforce, NCHD has received several temporary staff from the state office that are assisting with Epidemiology and SPOC operations.

278 Public Health Responders

| 15 | INCIDENT COMMAND/ADMINISTRATION/LOGISTICS |
| 44 | COVID-19 REFERRAL LINE |
| 44 | EPIDEMIOLOGY - CASE INVESTIGATOR |
| 30 | EPIDEMIOLOGY - CONTACT TRACER |
| 7 | EPIDEMIOLOGY - DATA ENTRY |
| 138 | SPOC OPERATIONS |
Specimen Points of Collection (SPOC)

On March 18, 2020, NCHD stood up our first SPOC in Houston County, in the following weeks we expanded to 3 additional locations in Jasper, Jones, and Washington Counties. The activities of these locations were limited in capacity due to state-supplied specimen collection kits. On 4/17/2020, due to an increase in the state’s capacity to supply specimen collection kits, we opened our fifth location in Bibb County. On 5/3/2020, we expanded testing to all 13 of our county health departments.

The information in this portion of the report is accurate as of 8/30/2020 at 9PM.

The data shown on this page only reflects specimens collected from NCHD public health points of collection and not representative of all specimens collected within our 13-county area.

NOTE: Over the past several weeks there have been delays in laboratory reporting. The week-to-week changes may be affected by such delays. These delays are outside of the operations of NCHD.

3.5 minutes is the average time spent per patient for specimen collection.
Epidemiology - Data Definitions

The information in the rest of the report is a breakdown by Presumptive and Confirmed Cases by each county within NCHD.

Confirmed Cases are those tested using a Molecular Test (i.e. PCR) since 3/1/2020.

Presumptive Cases are those tested using an Antigen Test since 3/1/2020

Due to the reporting, interview, and data analysis processes, there may be delays in reporting cases as an outbreak. The Epidemiology Program is working closely with all partners to ensure data accuracy.

An outbreak is considered closed if it has been 2 incubation periods since the last symptom onset date. Not all cases within an outbreak are counted within the county the outbreak occurs (i.e. staff of a facility may live in another county).

14-Day incidence rate indicates newly reported confirmed COVID-19 cases among county residents per 100,000 residents during the 14-day period indicated, using 2018 U.S. Census data to derive county population. Rates cannot be accurately calculated for Counties with <5 cases.

Transmission Levels are based on the incidence rate and defined as:
- **Substantial Spread**: greater than 101 cases per 100,000 county residents
- **Moderate Spread**: 51-100 cases per 100,000 county residents
- **Minimal Spread**: >11-50 cases per 100,000 county residents
- **Low Spread**: > 0-10 cases per 100,000 county residents
- **Insufficient Data**: A rate is not calculated for less than 5 cases reported. These counties may likely have low levels of transmission but may be affected by other factors such as levels of COVID-19 testing.

Counties of Interest are identified by counties that have within the most current week (most recent 7 days) to the previous week [>5% increase in COVID syndrome/ILI syndrome (if >2 visits) AND >5% increase in cases (if >2 cases)] OR [>25% change in cases AND >10 cases during most recent week].

Syndromic surveillance (SS) provides a method for timely detection of potential clusters or outbreaks of specified diseases/events. SS data include emergency department (ED) visits based on the patient’s chief complaint upon admission and/or discharge diagnosis. **SS data used within this report is based on county of residence NOT facility.**
- **Covid-19 Syndrome includes**: Chief complaint text for “coronavirus”, “covid”, “c-19”, or “ncov”. Selected discharge diagnosis codes (ICD or Snomed) relevant to COVID-19; including confirmed COVID-19, suspected/probable COVID-19, unspecified coronavirus infection, exposure to COVID-19, or severe acute respiratory syndrome.
- **ILI Syndrome includes**: Chief complaint text for fever, influenza, RSV, viral infection, viral pneumonia, cough (if fever), or sore throat (if fever).
- **Note**: Covid-19 Syndrome excludes select visits related to Covid-19 testing or exposure with no mention of symptoms. Criteria for syndromes are subject to change as additional information is received.

The information is accurate as of 8/30/2020 at 9PM.

**CURRENT 2 WEEK PERIOD:**
8/10/2020-8/23/2020

**PREVIOUS 2 WEEK PERIOD:**
7/27/2020-8/9/2020

**PREVIOUS 7 DAYS:**
8/24/2020-8/30/2020
**Epidemiology - Overview**

NCHD’s Epidemiology Program is responsible for investigating every reported case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. The following information describes the activities of the epidemiology program and provides a description of the current situation with the district.

NCHD Epidemiology only reports Confirmed* and Presumptive* cases that reside within the 13 counties that make up the district. Although serology (i.e. antibody tests) are reportable, they do not meet the CDC case definition for a confirmed or presumptive case, therefore number of serology tests are not included in this report.

Any reductions in numbers are a result of data error corrections (i.e. duplication, incorrect case classification, residency, etc). Data corrections are made as soon as they are found and data accuracy is checked daily by NCHD epidemiology staff. The information in this portion of the report is accurate as of 8/30/2020 at 9PM.

### SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD

| Total Number of Confirmed and Presumptive | 14,187 |
| Median Age (Age Range)                  | 41 (0-103 Years) |
| Hospitalizations                        | 1,697 (12%) |
| Deaths                                  | 392 (2.8%) |
| Deaths Median Age (Age Range)           | 75 (24-100 Years) |
| Deaths that were Hospitalized           | 288 (73%) |

#### Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for NCHD residents for the Current 2-Week Period was 374 per 100,000 population (n=1,934; population=530,945). The previous 2-week period Incidence Rate was 427 per 100,000 population (n=2,269).

#### Age Distribution of Cases

![Age Distribution of Cases](chart)

All data is based on patient county of residence when known.

*Confirmed Cases are those tested using a Molecular Tests (i.e. PCR) since 3/1/2020.
*Presumptive Cases are those tested using an Antigen Test since 3/1/2020.
The date indicated for the newly confirmed COVID-19 cases is based on the combination of dates based on: 1) date of symptom onset; 2) if the date is invalid or missing, the first positive collection date is used and 3) if both of those dates are invalid or missing, the date the case is reported is used.

* **14-day window – Confirmed cases over the last 14 days may not be accounted for due to illnesses yet to be reported or test results may still be pending.**

**Note** - Data during the reporting period may be incomplete due to the lag in time between when the case was tested and/or reported and submitted to the Georgia DPH for reporting purposes. This delay can vary depending on the testing facility and/or jurisdiction.
On 8/24/2020, the Georgia Department of Public Health electronically connected to a large electronic health record system that is used locally in middle GA to improve notifiable disease reporting. This caused, what seemed to be initially, a large surge of COVID-19 cases. The newly reported cases are for tests with collection dates ranging between 6/18/2020-8/22/2020. We continue to work closely with all of our local healthcare partners to ensure that information is correct and to manage any additional duplicates this connection may have caused. To date, we have identified and cleaned out over 300 duplicate reports. The following 2 graphs show the difference in case reports and moving averages between 6/1/2020-8/23/2020.
76% of Hospitalized Cases have been reported as being discharged.

9% of Cases have been identified as Healthcare Workers.

49% of Deaths are associated with a congregate setting outbreak.

13% of Cases are associated with a congregate setting outbreak.

Race Distribution of Cases

Underlying Health Conditions

Gender Distribution of Cases
**Baldwin County - Substantial Spread**

**AREA OF CONCERN:** Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Baldwin County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

**119% increase in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Baldwin County residents between the Current and Previous 2-week periods.**

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Baldwin County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period was 970 per 100,000 population** (n=435; population=44,823). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 444 (n=199) per 100,000 population.

**1%** (n=4) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 75% (n=3) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **99%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Baldwin County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, **22% (379)** of cases reported in Baldwin County have been linked to an outbreak.

**Age Distribution of Cases in Baldwin County**

The cases reported in Baldwin County for the Current 2-week period associated with an outbreak account for **1%** (n=4) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, **75%** (n=3) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **99%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Baldwin County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, **22% (379)** of cases reported in Baldwin County have been linked to an outbreak.
**Bibb County - Substantial Spread**

**AREA OF CONCERN:** Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Bibb County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Bibb County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period was 384 per 100,000 population** (n=588; population=153,095). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 622 (n=953) per 100,000 population.

38% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Bibb County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods**.

**Current 14-Day Incidence Rate**

The cases reported in Bibb County for the **Current 2-Week Period** associated with an outbreak account for 5% (n=29) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=29) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other 95% of cases reported during that timeframe in Bibb County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 10% (n=524) of cases reported in Bibb County have been linked to an outbreak.

**Age Distribution of Cases in Bibb County**

- **<1**: 2.5%
- **1-4**: 5%
- **5-9**: 7.5%
- **10-17**: 10%
- **18-24**: 12.5%
- **25-34**: 15%
- **35-49**: 17.5%
- **50-64**: 20%
- **65-79**: 22.5%
- **80 and older**: 0%

**Percentage of Total Cases**

The cases reported in Bibb County for the **Current 2-Week Period** associated with an outbreak account for 5% (n=29) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=29) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other 95% of cases reported during that timeframe in Bibb County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 10% (n=524) of cases reported in Bibb County have been linked to an outbreak.
Crawford County - Substantial Spread

**AREA OF CONCERN:** Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Crawford County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Crawford County residents from the **Current 2-week period** was **227 per 100,000 population** (n=28; population=12,318). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was **195** (n=24) per 100,000 population.

17% increase in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Crawford County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods**.

Age Distribution of Cases in Crawford County

The cases reported in Crawford County for the **Current 2-Week Period** associated with an outbreak account for **7%** (n=2) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, **50%** (n=1) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **93%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Crawford County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, **17%** (n=28) of cases reported in Crawford County have been linked to an outbreak.
Hancock County - Substantial Spread

AREA OF CONCERN: Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Hancock County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

168
Current 14-Day Incidence Rate

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Hancock County residents from the Current 2-week period was 264 per 100,000 population (n=14; population=8,348). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 479 (n=40) per 100,000 population.

▼65%

65% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Hancock County residents between the Current and Previous 2-week periods.

Age Distribution of Cases in Hancock County

The cases reported in Hancock County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 7% (n=1) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=1) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other 93% of cases reported during that timeframe in Hancock County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 42% (n=150) of cases reported in Hancock County have been linked to an outbreak.

7%
Current 2-week Period Outbreak Related Cases
Houston County - Substantial Spread

3% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Houston County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 8/15/2020.

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Houston County residents from the Current 2-Week Period was 256 per 100,000 population (n=398; population=155,469). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 239 (n=372) per 100,000 population.

7% increase in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Houston County residents between the Current and Previous 2-week periods.

### Age Distribution of Cases in Houston County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Current 2-Week Period Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-17</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-79</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 and older</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The cases reported in Houston County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 1% (n=2) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 50% (n=1) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. 100% of cases reported during that timeframe in Houston County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 7% (n=205) of cases reported in Houston County have been linked to an outbreak.
Jasper County - Substantial Spread

6% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Jasper County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 8/15/2020.

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Jasper County residents from the Current 2-Week Period was 242 per 100,000 population (n=34; population=14,040). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 335 (n=47) per 100,000 population.

28% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Jasper County residents between the Current and Previous 2-week periods.

Age Distribution of Cases in Jasper County

The cases reported in Jasper County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 3% (n=1) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. The other 97% of cases reported during that timeframe in Jasper County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 5% (n=14) of cases reported in Jasper County have been linked to an outbreak.
Jones County - Substantial Spread

**AREA OF CONCERN:** Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Jones County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

**217**

**Current 14-Day Incidence Rate**

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Jones County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period** was **217 per 100,000** (n=62; population=28,616). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was **290 (n=83)** per 100,000 population.

**25%**

**Current 14-Day Incidence Rate**

25% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Jones County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods**.

**Age Distribution of Cases in Jones County**

The cases reported in Jones County for the **Current 2-Week Period** associated with an outbreak account for **0% (n=0)** of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. **100%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Jones County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, **6% (n=29)** of cases reported in Jones County have been linked to an outbreak.
**Monroe County - Substantial Spread**

**AREA OF CONCERN:** Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Monroe County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

**233**

**Current 14-Day Incidence Rate**

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Monroe County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period was 233 per 100,000 population (n=64; population=27,520).** The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 294 (n=81) per 100,000 population.

**21%**

**21% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Monroe County residents between the Current and Previous 2-week periods.**

**Age Distribution of Cases in Monroe County**

The cases reported in Monroe County from the **Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 9% (n=6) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide.** During this time period, 100% (n=6) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other **91%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Monroe County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, **20% (n=129) of cases reported in Monroe County have been linked to an outbreak.**
Peach County - Substantial Spread

3% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Peach County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 8/15/2020.

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Peach County residents from the Current 2-Week Period was 344 per 100,000 population (n=94; population=27,297). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 480 (n=131) per 100,000 population.

28% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Peach County residents between the Current and Previous 2-week periods.

Age Distribution of Cases in Peach County

The cases reported in Peach County from the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 1% (n=1) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=1) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other 99% of cases reported during that timeframe in Peach County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 5% (n=33) of cases reported in Peach County have been linked to an outbreak.
Putnam County - Substantial Spread

3% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Putnam County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 8/15/2020.

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Putnam County residents from the Current 2-week Period was 413 per 100,000 population (n=90; population=21,809). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 591 (n=129) per 100,000 population.

30% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Putnam County residents between the Current and Previous 2-week periods.

Age Distribution of Cases in Putnam County

The cases reported in Putnam County from the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for 0% (n=0) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. 100% of cases reported during that timeframe in Putnam County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 10% (n=61) of cases reported in Putnam County have been linked to an outbreak.
Twiggs County - Substantial Spread

7% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Twiggs County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 8/15/2020.

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Twiggs County residents from the **Current 2-Week Period** was **232** per 100,000 population (n=19; population=8,188). The previous 2-week period Incidence Rate was **415** (n=34) per 100,000 population.

44% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Twiggs County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods**.

**Age Distribution of Cases in Twiggs County**

The cases reported in Twiggs County from the **Current 2-Week Period** associated with an outbreak account for 0% (n=0) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. 100% of cases reported during that timeframe in Twiggs County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 6% (n=9) of cases reported in Twiggs County have been linked to an outbreak.
Washington County - Substantial Spread

7% of Emergency Department Visits captured in syndromic surveillance for residents of Washington County were categorized as COVID-19 Syndrome since 8/15/2020.

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Washington County residents from the Current 2-week Period was 358 per 100,000 population (n=73; population=20,386). The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was 598 (n=122) per 100,000 population.

40% decrease in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Washington County residents between the Current and Previous 2-week periods.

The cases reported in Washington County for the Current 2-week Period associated with an outbreak account for 11% (n=8) of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. During this time period, 100% (n=8) of the outbreak-related cases are associated with a congregate care setting. The other 89% of cases reported during that timeframe in Washington County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 9% (n=61) of cases reported in Washington County have been linked to an outbreak.
**Wilkinson County - Substantial Spread**

**AREA OF CONCERN:** Confirmed case counts, as well as emergency room visits associated with COVID-19 and ILI Syndromes, have increased amongst Wilkinson County residents. The increase in cases cannot be attributed solely to congregate setting outbreaks. Due to this we are watching the situation closely and working with our partners to ensure that precautions amongst residents are encouraged.

**387**

*Current 14-Day Incidence Rate*

The incidence rate of COVID-19 for Wilkinson County residents from the Current 2-Week Period was **387 per 100,000 population (n=35; population=9,036)**. The previous 2-week Incidence Rate was **598 (n=54) per 100,000 population**.

**35%**

35% increase in newly Confirmed COVID-19 Cases amongst Wilkinson County residents between the **Current and Previous 2-week periods**.

**Age Distribution of Cases in Wilkinson County**

The cases reported in Wilkinson County for the Current 2-Week Period associated with an outbreak account for **0% (n=0)** of the total cases reported during that time county-wide. **100%** of cases reported during that timeframe in Wilkinson County have not been attributed to a single area of concern and represent community level spread within the county. Since March 2020, 13% (n=39) of cases reported in Wilkinson County have been linked to an outbreak.