



## In the know:

November 13 – Alzheimer – how to understand & respond in stressful situations

December 11 – Annual Holiday Party

January 15 – Family Disaster Planning

February 19 – Mental Health During Emergency Response: before, during and after

## An All Volunteer - Nonprofit Organization

*Heroes aren't born. They volunteer!*

### FUN FACTS

- There are 800 MRC Units around the country
- Over 200,000 MRC volunteers
- Over 2 million MRC Covid volunteer hours

### QUICK LINKS:

- [New....GNR Dashboard](#)
- [2021 Preparedness plans](#)
- [GNR Health](#)
- [Emergency Planning for family](#)
- [Alerts and Warnings](#)
- [National MRC](#)



## TELEMEDICINE

On October 16, 2021, Suleima Salgado, MRC GEM Member & Director of Telehealth and Telemedicine with Georgia Department of Public Health had a great presentation with a demonstration at our monthly MRC GEM training on the capabilities of telemedicine and its implementation. In a clinical setting telemedicine can bridge the gap between those that don't have accessibility to specialist and can therefore connect the patients directly with partner providers in a clinical setting. Additionally, partner providers can also be utilized during an emergency response at evacuation shelters and other emergencies.



With a **Telemedicine Backpack** complete with everything you would need to connect with a medical professional or a specialist, anyone with a little training can be a responder. Telemedicine can empower the patient regardless of their location and resources.

The backpacks contain a laptop with power cord; multi-outlet power strip; external USB high-definition camera; external USB speaker/microphone; Avizia Horus camera set with otoscope, dermascope & general exam camera lens attachments with Littmann bluetooth stethoscope. These devices connect with the laptop, and then connects to the physician that's offsite. You really have to see-it-to-believe-it! The high-definition technology with the otoscope looking in an ear looks like you are looking into the ear right there and then....and not a remote view.



The Department of Public Health's goal is to have at least one Telemedicine backpack in all its 159 county health departments around Georgia. In case of any emergency whether it's responding to hurricane shelters or other emergencies, a responder can grab a backpack and operate anywhere there is a wifi connection.

*If you missed this Telemedicine member monthly training and are interested in learning more on this program, please keep an eye out in the months to come for hands-on training by the Department of Public Health.*

### DID YOU KNOW?



**Firefighting drones** climb higher and faster. These drones can fly 1,000 ft in just six minutes, while standard firemen's ladders can't climb more than 100 ft. The drones can see through smoke with thermal cameras, identify the presence of people and recognize highly inflammable objects. They can extinguish fires efficiently by spraying high pressure liquid mixes including foam.

**Georgia's population** from 2016 to 2030 is expected to grow at a rate of 17%, while Rural Georgia will only see 1.2% increase.



# MRC Volunteers Can Play Important Roles in Disasters

By Steve Inserra, Management Team, MRC GEM



At a recent FEMA sponsored training for disaster assessment and epidemiology, the role of MRCs was highlighted. Their possible contributions for overall response effectiveness were noted. Language translators, liaison activities, and culturally sensitive public engagement methods were some practical examples for boosting public acceptance and obtaining interviews.

MRC personnel can play an important role in disaster response especially as "human capital" under Emergency Support Function 8 Medical and Public Health. MRCs can contribute to an array of efforts and outputs including data collection for immediate and intermediate public health assessment activities. Examples include the proofing/editing of communication materials, obtaining, and documenting consent from participants, entering data and information into public health and emergency management electronic toolkits or computer software, maintaining a public or volunteer registry, and outreach support to affected public and responders. Importantly, MRC staff can co-participate in the development and review of training materials and methods for both disaster preparedness and mitigation. Recent events and impacts including storms/floods, infectious disease pandemic, and environmentally related disease events (e.g., drinking water quality) reinforce the relevance and partnering potential of MRCs.

So, no matter how small you think your contribution may be, the beneficial effect for response effectiveness can be large. Who needs to work outside the proverbial "box" when instead you can expand the box! *Go forth volunteers!*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Member-to-Member



Tell us about you! We would like our members to get to know each other not only from our monthly meetings, but also through getting to know some interesting things about each other that we may not otherwise know. We would like to spotlight a member each month in our newsletter. [Tell us a little about yourself.](#)



# COVID-19 Pediatric | Adolescent | Adults

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines

PRELIMINARY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING REGULATORY GUIDANCE AND AUTHORIZATION/APPROVAL

Description	Current Adult/Adolescent Formulation (1170 and 450 packs)	Future Pediatric Formulation
	Dilute Prior to Use	Dilute Prior to Use
Age Group	12 years and older	5 to <12 years**
Vial Cap Color	PURPLE 	ORANGE 
Dose	30 mcg	10 mcg
Injection Volume	0.3 mL	0.2 mL
Fill Volume (before dilution)	0.45 mL	1.3 mL
Amount of Diluent* Needed per Vial	1.8 mL	1.3 mL
Doses per Vial	6 doses per vial (after dilution)	10 doses per vial (after dilution)
<b>Storage Conditions</b>		
ULT Freezer (-90°C to -60°C)	9 months	6 months
Freezer (-25°C to -15°C)	2 weeks	N/A
Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C)	1 month	10 weeks

**Q: Can the current adult/adolescent formulation (purple cap) be used to vaccinate children 5 to <12 years old once the vaccine is authorized for this age group?**

**A: No.** For children under 12 years of age, you cannot use the current formulation and will need to use the future pediatric (orange cap) formulation.

**Purple Cap – Adult/Adolescent:** Authorized only for aged 12 years and older



**Orange Cap – Pediatric:** Future authorization for aged 5- to 12 years. A separate vaccine formulation specific for a 10mcg dose will be introduced.



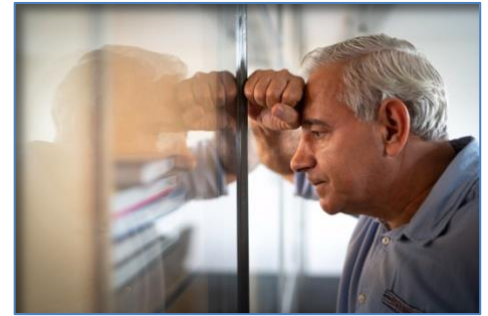
**NOTE:** Use of the current adult/adolescent formulation (purple cap) to prepare doses for children 5 to <12 years would result in an injection volume for the 10mcg dose of 0.1mL, which is both generally considered too small for typical IM injections and has not been studied.

\*Diluent: 0.9% sterile Sodium Chloride Injection, USP (non-bacteriostatic; DO NOT USE OTHER DILUENTS)

\*\*The vaccine is currently under emergency use authorization review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for children 5 to <12 years old

# Alzheimer's Awareness Month

(November 13 member meeting)



alzheimer's  association®

In honor of Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, we'll have a speaker from the Alzheimer's Association to explain how to understand and respond to persons with dementia-based issues, primarily in a disaster shelter scenario. In addition, there will also be a segment on how to effectively communicate with someone that suffers from dementia.

## DONATE

We are an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit with no paid staff, so every penny donated goes directly to providing services.

**2 ways** to help at no cost to you. A portion of your purchase will go towards MRC GEM.



Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and/or Link your [Groger card](#)

**DONATE DIRECTLY TO MRC GEM**

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