

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT:

Nancy Nydam
404-657-2462

Georgia Hospitals on Diversion

Georgians Asked to Reduce Strain on EMS & Emergency Departments

ATLANTA – The current surge of COVID cases throughout Georgia is stretching hospital and EMS personnel and resources to unprecedented levels. As a result, many hospitals are having to declare themselves on diversion meaning they are temporarily unable to provide normal emergency care to patients arriving by ambulance. Diversion is a term specific to ambulance transports and is a request to ambulances to transport patients to other local facilities if possible.

Diversion does not apply to individuals seeking emergency medical care. Individuals experiencing a medical emergency should call 9-1-1 and ask for assistance.

The statewide hospital diversion website <https://georgiarcc.org> is a tool intended to be used by **EMS agencies** across Georgia so that they may take into consideration the diversion status(es) of hospitals they may be transporting patients to.

The Georgia Coordinating Center (GCC) is a communications center for use **ONLY by ambulance crews** who are transporting patients to emergency departments that are located in the 13-county metro Atlanta area. **The public should NOT call the GCC with questions or concerns.**

To help keep hospital emergency departments open and able to treat medical emergencies, individuals seeking COVID testing **should not** go to hospital emergency departments. COVID-19 testing locations are available throughout Georgia and can be found on the DPH website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covidtesting>.

COVID vaccination is available statewide and is our best tool for ending this pandemic and reducing the overwhelming strain on EMS, the healthcare system and healthcare providers. To find a COVID vaccination location, log on to <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine>. Georgians aged 12 and older are urged to get vaccinated and wear a mask in public settings where social distancing is not possible and wash their hands frequently.

For updates on COVID-19, follow @GaDPH and @GovKemp on Twitter and @GaDPH and @GovKemp on Facebook.

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