

**Judicial Council of Georgia**  
**Emergency Session**

**By Remote Conferencing**

Livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/judicialcouncilofgeorgia>

**Monday, November 23, 2020**  
2:00 p.m.

- 1. Preliminary Remarks**  
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 2. Roll Call of Judicial Council Members**  
(Cynthia Clanton, Judicial Council Secretary and AOC Director, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 3. Adoption of Minutes**  
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 4. Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders and COVID-19 Update by Judicial Council Members**  
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 15 Min.)
  - A. Judicial COVID-19 Task Force Update**  
(Judge Shawn LaGrua, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 5. Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC (Est. Time – 20 min.)**
  - A. Supreme Court**
  - B. Court of Appeals**
  - C. Business Court**
  - D. Council of Superior Court Judges**
  - E. Council of State Court Judges**
  - F. Council of Juvenile Court Judges**
  - G. Council of Probate Court Judges**
  - H. Council of Magistrate Court Judges**
  - I. Council of Municipal Court Judges**
  - J. State Bar of Georgia**

**K. Administrative Office of the Courts**

**6. Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies (Est. Time – 10 Min.)**

**A. Council of Accountability Court Judges**

**B. Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution**

**C. Council of Superior Court Clerks**

**D. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism**

**E. Georgia Council of Court Administrators**

**F. Institute of Continuing Judicial Education**

**G. Judicial Qualifications Commission**

**7. Old/New Business**

(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

**8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

**Next Judicial Council Meeting – General Session**

Friday, December 11, 2020      10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.      Zoom Conferencing

**Judicial Council Meeting Calendar – 2021**

Friday, February 12, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Building/ Atlanta, GA
Friday, April 23, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Classic Center/Athens, GA
Friday, August 13, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Columbus Convention & Trade Center/Columbus, GA
Friday, December 10, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Carter Center/Atlanta, GA

*Please continue to check [www.georgiacourts.gov](http://www.georgiacourts.gov) (the Judicial Gateway) for the latest updates and information. Thank you and continue to be safe!*

**Judicial Council of Georgia**  
**Emergency Session**  
**Conference Call**  
**October 26, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair  
Presiding Justice David Nahmias  
Chief Judge Brian Amero  
Chief Judge Berryl Anderson (for Judge  
Quinn M. Kasper)  
Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley  
Judge James G. Blanchard, Jr.  
Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher  
Judge Walter W. Davis  
Judge Lori B. Duff  
Elizabeth Fite (for Dawn Jones)  
Chief Judge T.J. Hudson  
Chief Judge Asha Jackson  
Judge Jeffrey H. Kight  
Judge Thomas Lakes  
Chief Judge Christopher J. McFadden  
Judge J. Wade Padgett  
Senior Judge Jack Partain (for  
Judge Ralph Van Pelt, Jr.)  
Vice Chief Judge Brian K. Rickman  
Judge Fletcher Sams  
Judge W. James Sizemore, Jr.  
Judge Wesley B. Tailor  
Chief Judge Sarah Wall  
Chief Judge Willie C. Weaver, Sr.

Chief Judge Kelli L. Wolk  
Judge Alvin T. Wong

**Members Absent**

Judge Melanie Cross  
Judge Lisa C. Jones  
Judge C. Gregory Price

**Staff Present**

Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Director  
Ms. Jessica Farah  
Mr. Christopher Hansard  
Ms. Stephanie Hines  
Ms. Cheryl Karounos  
Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez  
Ms. Tracy Mason  
Ms. Lashawn Murphy  
Mr. Sterling Perry  
Ms. Tiffanie Robinson  
Mr. Bruce Shaw  
Ms. Maleia Wilson

**(Guests Appended)**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chief Justice Harold Melton. He informed the Council that the meeting will be recorded, livestreamed, and open to the press and public. Chief Justice Melton recognized the loss of Judge Karen Batten, Probate Court of Brantley County, and he extended condolences to her family. He asked the Council to observe a moment of silence in reflection. The Chief Justice administered the Council oath to Judge Thomas Lakes as the newest member of the Council. He recognized Judge Kerri B. Carter, former President-Elect of the Council of Probate Court Judges, for her service on the Council; Senior Judge Jack Partain (attending as designee for Judge Van Pelt); and, Ms. Jennifer Dalton, serving as the new General Counsel for the Department of Public Health. Ms. Clanton called

roll for Council members; staff and guests were instructed to submit their attendance for the purpose of the minutes.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

Chief Justice Melton directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the Emergency Session held on October 5, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Chief Judge Weaver with a second from Chief Judge McFadden. No discussion was offered, and the motion was approved without opposition.

### **Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders and COVID-19 Update by Judicial Council Members**

Chief Justice Melton updated the Council on the current extension order for the Statewide Judicial Emergency, which lifted the suspension of jury trial proceedings. He emphasized this does not mandate jury trials, just simply lifts the suspension, and it is up to the courts to decide how and at what pace to proceed. Chief Justice Melton asked the Council to be mindful of the upcoming season and the reports of COVID-19 by exercising sound judgement. He also noted that nothing in the order is irreversible, and local jurisdictions may reverse plans if necessary. The Chief Justice encouraged the Council to complete its planning and submit those plans to the Administrative Office of the Courts for publishing on its website, as required. He mentioned that this provides comfort for Georgia citizens.

Chief Justice Melton acknowledged Justice Keith Blackwell for playing an integral part of the resumption of the grand jury trial process, and he requested him to report on the development of guidance for remote jury trials proceedings. Chief Justice Melton encouraged the Council to provide any questions or feedback before finalizing the guidance. Justice Blackwell stated that a draft of the guidance for remote grand jury proceedings has been circulated. The guidance received a lot of input from several sources, including the COVID-19 Task Force, a memorandum from Mr. Michael B. Terry, with Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, LLP, and guidelines and protocols supplied from the federal courts around the country along from other states. Justice Blackwell highlighted the key takeaway for remote grand juries is it not required that they all come in the same form. He mentioned the federal courts have been conducting trials by splitting grand juries into three or four parts and directing the groups to different sites within the courthouse or the district. He noted the rooms are then connected to the smaller grand jury groups, which is optimal, to the extent public health conditions allow. Justice Blackwell noted under the Seventh Order, it's the Chief Judge's decision,

in consultation with other local judicial officers, to resume or continue grand jury proceeding via in-person or remote proceedings. He mentioned the guidance is not to thrust any court towards remote proceedings; however, providing guidance offers an alternative. He mentioned Judge Shawn LaGrua contributed some helpful information for the guidance, and revisions will be forthcoming. Justice Blackwell noted he also spoke with Chief Judge Jackson concerning Dekalb County's grand jury process. He welcomes additional input from across the state, if available. Chief Justice Melton thanked Justice Blackwell and the COVID-19 Task Force for their support. Justice Blackwell addressed the Council for questions and any feedback. Judge Padgett raised the question to clarify if it's mandatory to convene grand juries remotely or, if the information presented serves as guidance if a decision is made to hold a grand jury remotely. Chief Justice confirmed that the information is available as a resource to use as needed. He thanked Justice Blackwell for his assistance.

Chief Justice mentioned an exchange with Ms. Clanton concerning surveying rapid testing resources that may be available to the judiciary. He asked the Council if anyone had been successful with utilizing rapid testing resources. No discussion was offered. He encouraged the Council to provide any feedback if available.

Chief Justice Melton recognized Judge LaGrua to report on the COVID-19 Task Force. Judge LaGrua announced that Chief Judge Russ McClelland has been very instrumental in the work of the Task Force and will now serve as Vice-Chair of the Task Force. She reported on the remote jury guidance and will provide Justice Blackwell with any other feedback. She commended Judge Hodges and the PSA subcommittee on compiling the PSAs rapidly and thanked Ms. Fite for presenting the PSA at the State Bar Board of Governors meeting. Judge LaGrua thanked the AOC staff and PSA committee for their support on the project. A draft of the 15 second version was shown to the Council. Judge LaGrua asked for feedback and mentioned additional updates will be provided. No discussion was offered.

Chief Justice Melton recognized Fulton County Superior Court on implementing a great PSA video and Chief Judge Jackson for an exceptional interview with Mark Winne on WSBTV. He also thanked Chief Judge McClelland for his efforts and expressed his appreciation for the Council's dedication. Chief Justice Melton noted a renewed focus on the development of guidelines for virtual remote jury trials. He mentioned the focus will be on the civil side and not criminal. The projections for the COVID spread are not favorable and so it is advisable to have options available. He thanked Judge LaGrua and the Task Force for their focus on this project.

## **Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC**

Supreme Court. No report was provided.

Court of Appeals. No report was provided.

Business Court. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Judges. Chief Judge Amero inquired about whether the Department of Public Health's would take a position on the safety of having jury trials above a specific case threshold. Ms. Dalton noted she would raise the question with Dr. Kathleen Toomey and respond to Chief Justice Melton. Judge Amero mentioned the Task Force's review of virtual jury trial guidance and asked about the feasibility of examining virtual criminal jury trial guidance as well. Chief Justice agreed with Judge Amero's request and stated the civil jury trial guidance material should be transferable to the criminal context and would provide lessons learned. Chief Judge Amero thanked Justice Blackwell and his team for their contributions to remote jury guidance development.

Council of State Court Judges. Judge Wes Taylor reported that Chief Judge McClelland, at the Council's general membership meeting, was presented with the prestigious Ogden Doremus-Kent Lawrence Award for his service and dedication to the judiciary.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Probate Court Judges. Chief Judge Wolk confirmed the news concerning the loss of Judge Batten and the addition of Judge Lakes to the Council.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. No report was provided.

State Bar of Georgia. Ms. Fite reported the Board of Governors' meeting took place the previous weekend; the PSA campaign was shown during the meeting and received great feedback. The Bar's new Executive Director was selected at this meeting and will be announced publicly. The Professional Liability Insurance Committee presented a report and they anticipate the final presentation will be presented in person at the mid-year or Spring meeting if possible. She noted that there are some miscellaneous rules changes that will grant the Board's ability to continue to conduct virtual meetings and these will be presented to the Supreme Court.

Administrative Office of the Courts. Director Clanton reported the AOC remains fully functional. The Chief Justice issued an order expanding the membership of the Ad Hoc Committee on Improving Community Access to Legal resources, also known as the Law Library Committee,

which will include a member of the Council of Superior Court Clerks. Ms. Clanton announced that Mr. Ben Luke was chosen as the new Chief Technology Officer/IT Division Director and begins on November 1. She also recognized Mr. Sterling Perry for doing an outstanding job serving as Interim IT Director.

### **Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies**

Council of Accountability Court Judges. No report was provided.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. Ms. Johnson reported the Commission met last week for their strategic planning session. The Commission will continue to expand support for remote appearances and provide needed resources to keep neutrals and court program directors updated with effective best practices. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 4, at 2 p.m., via Zoom.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. Ms. Robinson shared the Council's gratitude to serve on the Law Library Committee. The Council will provide the name of the representative selected to serve to Ms. Clanton by the end of the week.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. The Commission held its sixth professionalism CLE on Friday, October 23. She acknowledged Justice Boggs, Mr. Chuck Boring, and Ms. Adwoa Gharthey-Tagoe Seymour for an outstanding job as there were a total of 350 people in attendance. As the holidays are approaching and bringing with it added stressors, Ms. Grier encouraged the Council on being professional and considerate when interacting with others. She reminded the Council that service and resources are available. Ms. Grier referred the Council to the State Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program and the Commission's website for additional information to assist with non-lawyers' judges and judicial staff. She mentioned Dr. Alex Crosby contributed key resources that are complimentary or with a flexible scale. She encouraged the Council to share these resources with the legal community.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. Ms. Hines mentioned she has transitioned as Immediate Past President and acknowledged that Ms. Robin Rooks was installed on October 6 as the new President of GCCA. She will be attending future meetings.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. No report was provided.

Judicial Qualifications Commission. No report was provided.

### **Old Business**

No old business was offered.

**New Business**

No new business was offered.

**Concluding Remarks**

Chief Justice Melton announced that the next Emergency Session will be Monday, November 9, 2020 and the next General Session is scheduled for December 11, 2020 via Zoom teleconference.

**Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Chief Justice Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tiffanie Robinson  
Executive Assistant, Judicial Council/AOC  
For Cynthia H. Clanton, Director and Secretary

*Signature on the next page*

The above and foregoing minutes  
were approved on the \_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_

Harold D. Melton  
Chief Justice



**Judicial Council of Georgia**  
**Emergency Session**  
**Conference Call**  
**October 26, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

**Guest Present**

Mr. Doug Ashworth, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education  
Justice Keith R. Blackwell, Supreme Court of Georgia  
Mr. Joseph Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges  
Chief Judge Geronda V. Carter, Clayton Judicial Circuit  
Chief Judge Robert W. Chasteen, Superior Court of Ben Hill County  
Ms. Jennifer Dalton, Department of Public Health  
Mr. Steve Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District  
Ms. Elizabeth Fite, State Bar of Georgia  
Judge Kathlene Gosselin, Northeastern Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Karlise Grier, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism  
Ms. Christine Butcher Hayes, State Bar of Georgia  
Mr. Kevin Holder, Council of Probate Court Judges  
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks  
Individual, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Ms. Tracy Johnson, Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution  
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Court Judges  
Judge Shawn LaGrúa, Superior Court of Fulton County  
Mr. Ben Luke, Council of Superior Court Judges  
Chief Judge T. Russell McClelland, State Court of Forsyth County  
Ms. Natasha MacDonald, Council of Superior Court Judges  
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Bob Nadekow, Eighth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Jody Overcash, Seventh Judicial Administrative District  
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges  
Ms. Tina Robinson, Council of Superior Court Clerks  
Mr. William T. Simmons, Sixth Judicial Administrative District  
Judge Arthur Lee Smith, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit  
Mr. Robert W. Smith, Jr., Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia  
Mr. Jason Stephenson, Northeastern Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Kristen Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Ms. Cindy Wang, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges  
Ms. Courtney Veal, Judicial Qualifications Commission  
Ms. Emily Youngo, Council of Superior Court Judges

**Judicial Council of Georgia**  
**Emergency Session**  
**Conference Call**  
**November 9, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair  
Presiding Justice David E. Nahmias  
Chief Judge Brian Amero  
Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley  
Judge James G. Blanchard, Jr.  
Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher  
Judge Melanie Cross  
Judge Walter W. Davis  
Judge Lori B. Duff  
Chief Judge T.J. Hudson  
Chief Judge Asha Jackson  
Ms. Dawn Jones  
Judge Lisa C. Jones  
Judge Quinn M. Kasper  
Judge Thomas Lakes  
Chief Judge Christopher J. McFadden  
Judge J. Wade Padgett  
Judge Ralph Van Pelt, Jr.  
Chief Judge C. Gregory Price  
Judge W. James Sizemore, Jr.  
Judge Wesley B. Taylor  
Chief Judge Sarah Wall  
Judge Alvin T. Wong

**Members Absent**

Judge Jeffrey H. Kight  
Vice Chief Judge Brian K. Rickman  
Judge Fletcher Sams  
Chief Judge Willie C. Weaver, Sr.  
Chief Judge Kelli L. Wolk

**Staff Present**

Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Director  
Ms. Jessica Farah  
Mr. Christopher Hansard  
Ms. Stephanie Hines  
Ms. Cheryl Karounos  
Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez  
Mr. Ben Luke  
Ms. Tracy Mason  
Ms. Lashawn Murphy  
Ms. Tiffanie Robinson  
Mr. Bruce Shaw  
Ms. Maleia Wilson

**(Guests Appended)**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chief Justice Melton. He informed the Council that the meeting will be recorded, livestreamed, and open to the press and public. Ms. Clanton called roll for Council members; staff and guests were instructed to submit their attendance for the purpose of the minutes.

**Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders**

Chief Justice Melton reported the PSAs are available and encouraged feedback from courts that are using them. He noted conversations with the Department of Public Health officials to identify benchmarks and acknowledged Chief Judge Amero and Presiding Justice Nahmias for assisting with those conversations. The draft of the Eighth Order Extending Statewide Judicial Emergency has been circulated and the Order will be issued today. The Order advances all that was in the last version, with some changes in Sections 1 and 7. In Section 7, changes reflect the reality

of case backlogs. In the absence of an imminent court date (which will continue for some time), Chief Justice Melton stated a lawyer's best method is to continue to advance cases and work toward resolutions by moving towards discovery. The Order urges lawyers to proceed on their cases as they can, which will hopefully enable the parties to reach a resolution through means other than a formal court proceeding. He encouraged lawyers to engage in discovery safely. Chief Justice Melton asked for any feedback from the Council. No discussion was given.

### **Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC**

Supreme Court. No report was provided.

Court of Appeals. No report was provided.

Business Court. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Judges. Chief Judge Amero reported the Henry County Superior Court empaneled two grand juries using a hybrid system, which was very successful. He expressed being pleased with how the District Attorney and other judges have employed the technology. He also thanked Chief Justice Melton for his leadership.

Council of State Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Judge Jones reported the Council of Juvenile Court Judges had an effective Fall seminar.

Council of Probate Court Judges. Judge Lakes reported the Council of Probate Judges are currently attending their training virtually.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Duff reported the Council of Municipal Court Judges Executive Committee met and approved its two-year Strategic Plan.

State Bar of Georgia. Ms. Jones reported holding a successful Fall Board meeting and confirmed the election of their new Executive Director, Mr. Damon Elmore, beginning at the first of the year. Ms. Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer, has officially retired. Ms. Jones asked the Council to reach out to Executive Director Jeff Davis, who serves as the point of contact until the selection of their new Chief Operating Officer.

Administrative Office of the Courts. Director Clanton reported the AOC remains fully functional and encouraged the Council to share ways that the AOC can serve.

### **Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies**

Council of Accountability Court Judges. Judge Gosselin reported the Council of Accountability Court Judges held a successful funding committee meeting. The Council will continue to provide support and technical assistance virtually to all accountability courts.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. Mr. Holiman mentioned superior court clerks are getting a good response on their jury summons for grand jurors.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Ms. Grier reported the Commission rescheduled their Suicide Awareness Program for April 30, 2021. She noted she will contact those interested in serving as satellite viewing locations. The “Necessity of Unparalleled Unity” CLE will be conducted on January 6, in conjunction with the State Bar’s mid-year meeting. The Benham Awards will likely be rescheduled for June 26 and will honor the recipients from 2020.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. No report was provided.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. No report was provided.

Judicial Qualifications Commission. No report was provided.

### **COVID-19 Update by Judicial Council Members**

Chief Judge Melton recognized Chief Judge Russ McClelland to report on the COVID-19 Task Force. He noted the Civil Committee has met and in the process of updating guidance on virtual jury trials and hybrid jury trials in civil cases. He mentioned the Task Force plans to meet tomorrow for discussion on this item. The Task Force is also discussing guidelines on how the judiciary can be proactive on working their dockets and the importance of having alternate locations for jury trials or jury assembly. He noted Judge LaGrua would like to get an update from the Criminal Committee and the Civil Subcommittee has plans to meet as well. Chief Judge McClelland mentioned an update from the Technology Committee is essential involving the statewide digital evidence presentation solutions.

Chief Justice Melton acknowledged Judge Stephen Kelley for an update on the Technology Committee. Judge Kelley noted several vendors had made presentations for statewide solutions. Judge Padgett shared that the most recent episode of The Good Judge-ment podcast is now available.

### **Old Business**

No old business was offered.

### **New Business**

No new business was offered.

**Concluding Remarks**

Chief Justice Melton announced that the next Emergency Session will be Monday, November 23, 2020, and the next General Session is scheduled for December 11, 2020, via Zoom teleconference.

**Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Chief Justice Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tiffanie Robinson  
Executive Assistant, Judicial Council/AOC  
For Cynthia H. Clanton, Director and Secretary

*Signature on the next page*

The above and foregoing minutes  
were approved on the \_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Harold D. Melton  
Chief Justice

**Judicial Council of Georgia  
Emergency Session  
Conference Call  
November 9, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

**Guest Present**

Justice Keith R. Blackwell, Supreme Court  
Mr. Joseph Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges  
Chief Judge Geronda V. Carter, Clayton Judicial Circuit  
Chief Judge Robert W. Chasteen, Superior Court of Ben Hill County  
Mr. Steve Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District  
Judge Kathleen Gosselin, Northeastern Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Karlise Grier, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism  
Mr. Kevin Holder, Council of Probate Court Judges  
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks  
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Ms. Tracy Johnson, Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution  
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Court Judges  
Judge Stephen Kelley, Brunswick Judicial Circuit  
Judge Shawn LaGrua, Superior Court of Fulton County  
Chief Judge T. Russell McClelland, State Court of Forsyth County  
Ms. Natasha MacDonald, Council of Superior Court Judges  
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Mr. Jody Overcash, Seventh Judicial Administrative District  
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges  
Mr. William T. Simmons, Sixth Judicial Administrative District  
Judge Arthur Lee Smith, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit  
Mr. Robert W. Smith, Jr., Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia  
Mr. Jason Stephenson, Northeastern Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Terry Stolow, Intern, Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia  
Ms. Kristen Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Ms. Cindy Wang, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges  
Ms. Courtney Veal, Judicial Qualifications Commission  
Ms. Emily Youngo, Council of Superior Court Judges

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nov. 17, 2020

### CONTACT:

Nancy Nydam  
404-657-2462

## DPH Provides Update on COVID-19 in Georgia

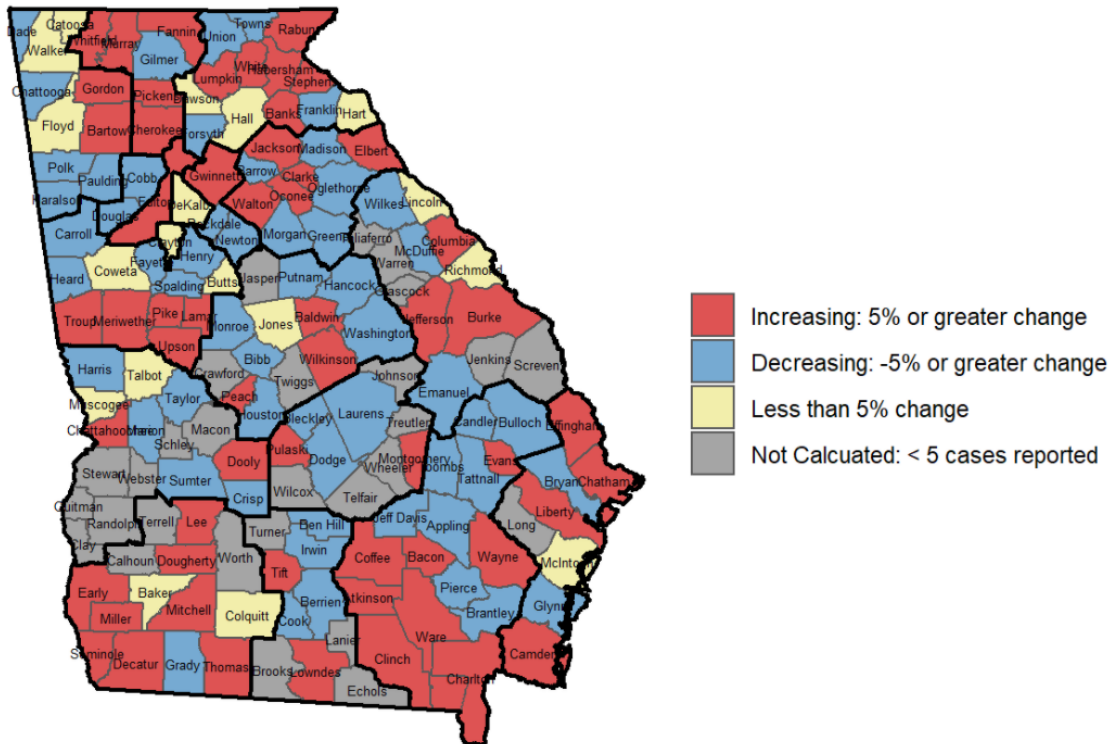
**Atlanta** – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is providing the following information regarding the fight against COVID-19 in Georgia.

### COVID-19 Cases

- From **11/09-11/16**, the seven-day average of new cases reported **increased 22.7%**.
- The seven-day average of new cases reported is **down 46%** from our peak July 24.
- As of Nov.16, there are **387,930 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 38,306 antigen positive cases of COVID-19**.

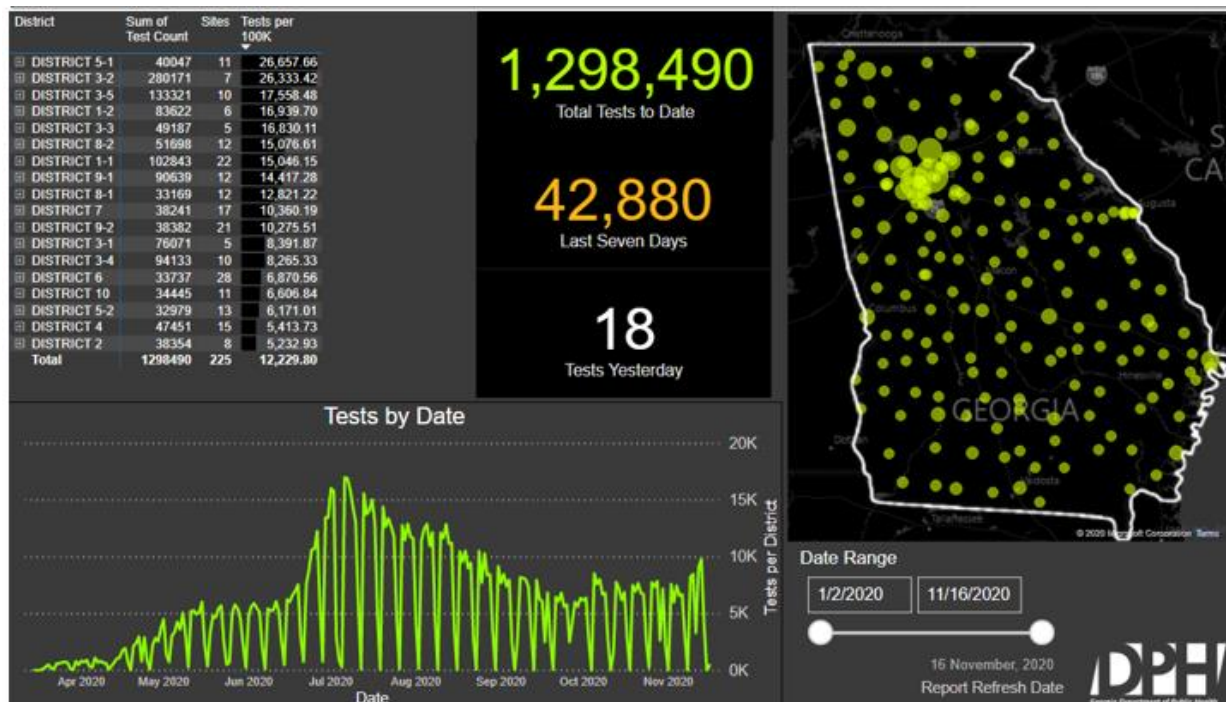
### Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Percent Change 10/31-11/06, 11/07-11/13



## COVID-19 Testing

### Georgia SPOCs



- As of Nov. 16, the state reported 3,900,708 (cumulative) COVID-19 PCR tests reported to DPH through Electronic Laboratory Reports (ELR).
- The number of specimens collected at DPH SPOCs is **1,298,490**.
- From Nov. 10-16, testing at SPOC locations **increased 20.3%** over the previous seven days.

### Positivity Rate

The statewide percent positivity (7-day moving average) for PCR test **increased 20%** from 6.9% on 11/9 to 8.3% on 11/16.

### Hospitalizations

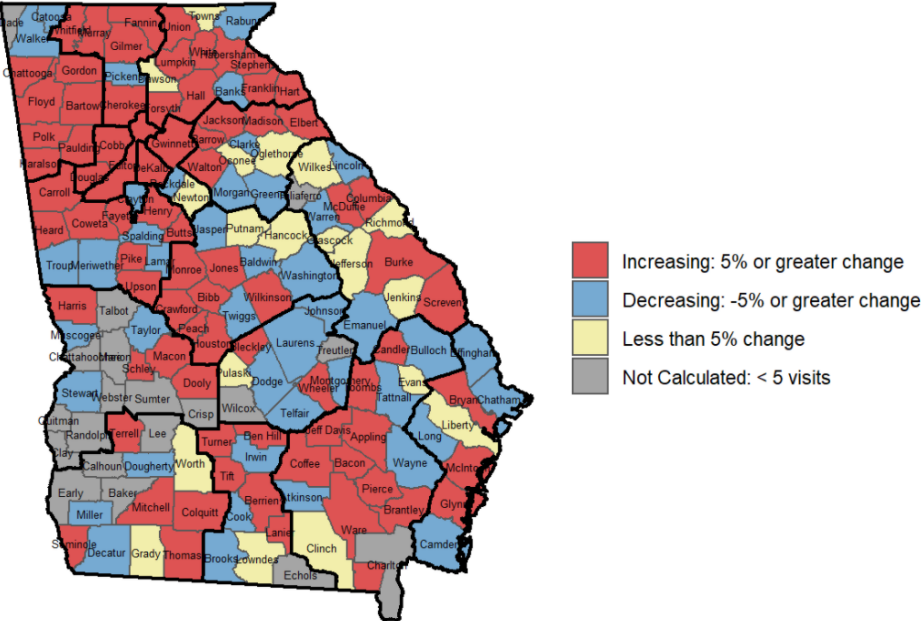
Daily hospitalizations for COVID-19 have **increased 10.6%** from 1,534 to 1,697 on Nov.16. Hospitalizations have **decreased 47%** since a daily high of 3,200 on July 30.

### Emergency Department Visits

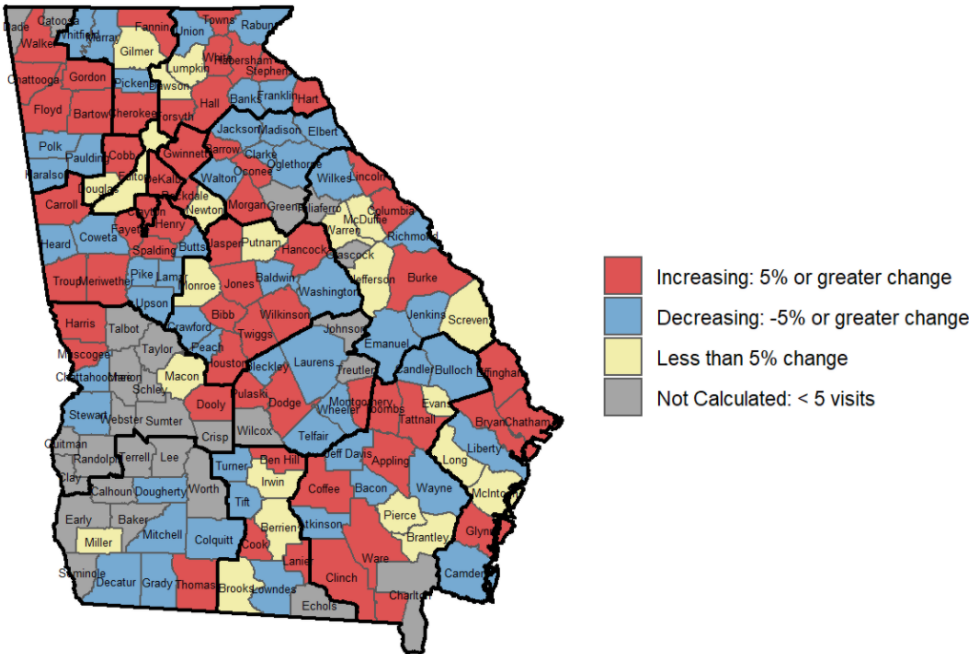
Emergency Department (ED) visits related to COVID-19 and ILI (influenza-like illness) have remained flat statewide over the two week period Oct. 31 - Nov.13



### Emergency Department (ED) Visits with COVID-19 Syndrome Percent Change 10/31-11/06, 11/07-11/13

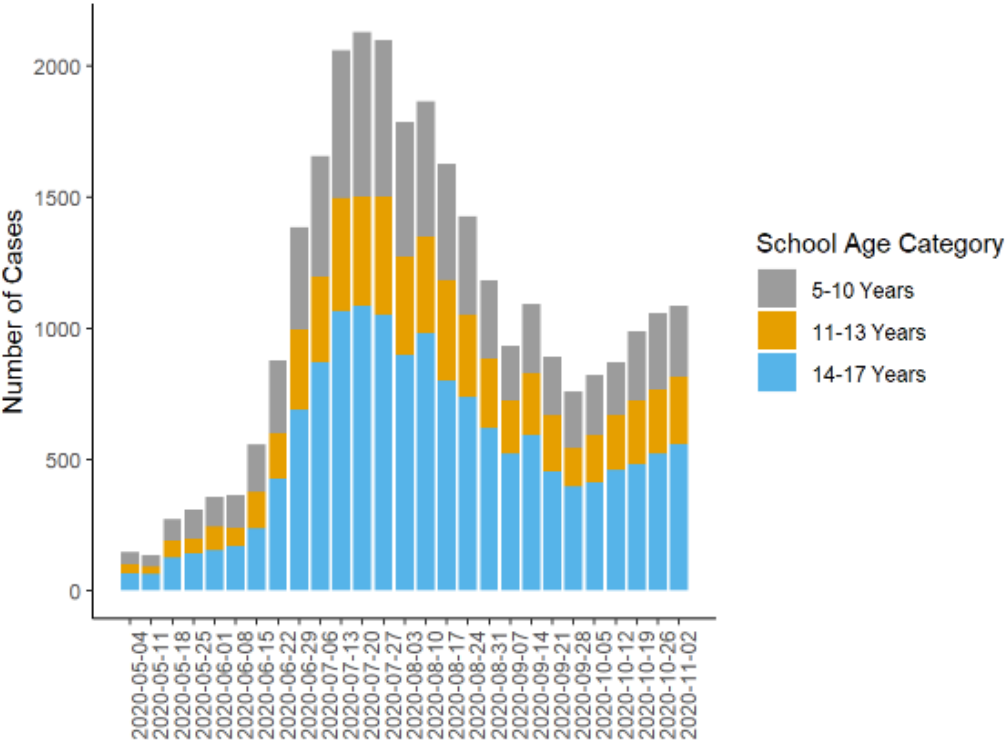


### Emergency Department (ED) Visits with ILI Syndrome Percent Change 10/31-11/06, 11/07-11/13



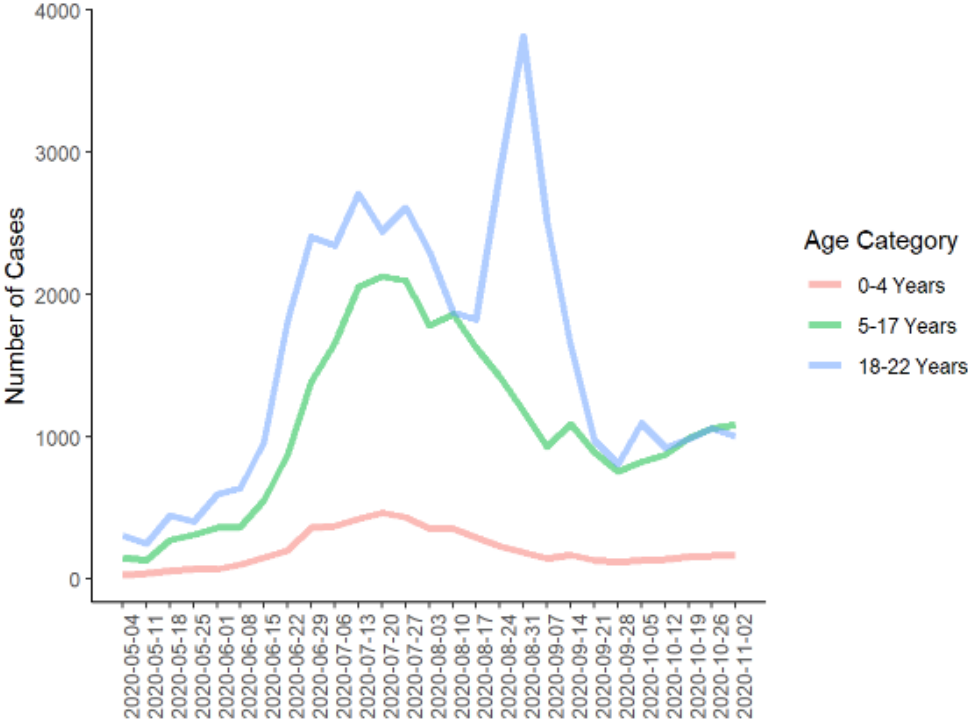
The Georgia Department of Public Health monitors influenza (flu) activity year-round throughout the state with the help of volunteer sentinel healthcare providers. Influenza activity is calculated based on the percentage of provider visits that are for "influenza-like illness" (fever >100° F AND cough and/or sore throat). Click on this link to see the [Weekly Flu Surveillance Report](#).

**PCR Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Among K-12 School Aged Children\***



\*Report reflects Nov. 2-8

**PCR Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Category (Ages 0-22)\***



\*Report reflects week Nov. 2-8

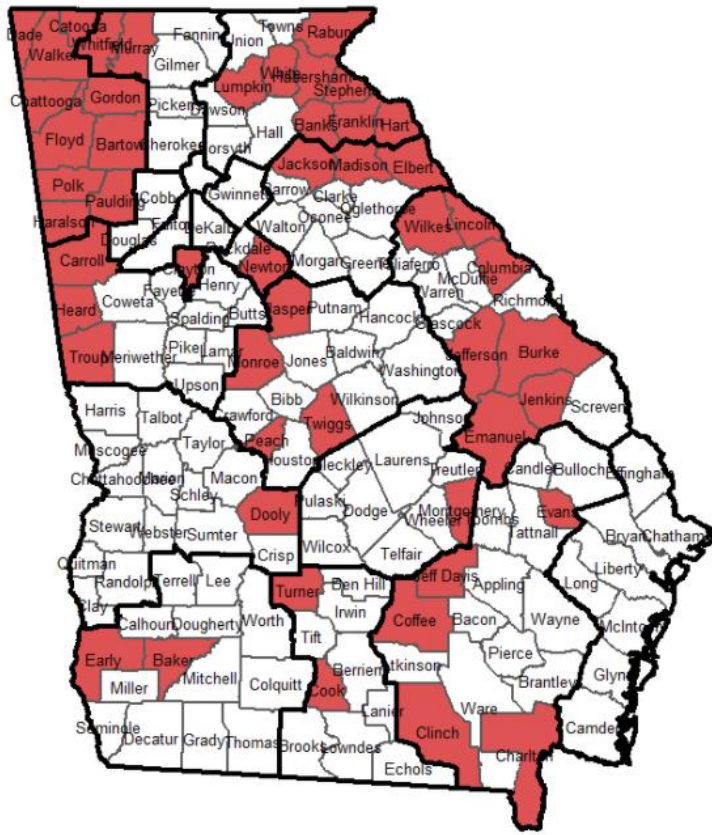
## Outbreaks

Nov. 8-14: **73 (decrease of 23 from previous week)**

These outbreaks are occurring in settings where people are physically congregating and underscore the need for physical distancing and source control. The highest number of outbreaks occurred in schools, long-term care facilities, correctional facilities and workplaces.

Setting	11/8-11/14	11/1-11/7	Grand Total
LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY/NURSING HOME	20	15	864
SCHOOL	11	25	494
WORKPLACE,	11	19	307
PRISON/JAIL	5	4	262
MANUFACTURING FACILITY	3	3	196
RESTAURANT OR DELI	1	9	114
CHURCH/TEMPLE	6	7	107
OTHER CONGREGATE SETTING	2	3	91
DAY CARE CENTER	2	1	88
OTHER	1		81
HOSPITAL	4		76
FOOD PRODUCTION FACILITY		1	56
OUTPATIENT (NON-DIALYSIS)		2	55
OFFICE SETTING	2	1	49
SHELTER			40
GROCERY STORE	1	1	34
OTHER INPATIENT FACILITY/DETOX FACILITY	2	1	32
FARM			20
CONSTRUCTION SITE			19
MENTAL HOSPITAL			18
BAR/ENTERTAINMENT VENUE			13
FUNERAL		1	13
CAMP			9
COMMUNITY			9
HOTEL			9
DIALYSIS CENTER		1	7
MILITARY FACILITY			7
PRIVATE HOME	1	1	7
WEDDING RECEPTION	1		7
MENTAL HEALTH (NON-HOSPITAL)		1	4
RESORT			3
PICNIC/COOKOUT/POTLUCK			2
WORKPLACE CAFETERIA			2
BANQUET FACILITY			1
CONVENTION CENTER			1
PET STORE			1
SWIMMING POOL			1
WATER PARK			1

**Counties with High Transmission Indicators\***



Counties of High Transmission Indicators represent Counties with [14-day cases rate is > 100 cases/100,000 county residents (> 5 cases during this period)] AND [14-day average % positive PCR tests > 10% (> 20 total tests performed during this period)].

\*By county of residence, report reflects Oct. 31 – Nov. 13

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

For information about COVID-19, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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