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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

Mitigating Transmission by Maximizing Disinfection Resources in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: One Healthcare Coalition's Strategic Response

As healthcare scrambled to battle the pandemic, Georgia Healthcare Coalition (HCC) Region K was prepared to meet the needs of its community. In March 2020, Region K-HCC was extremely hard hit, with a 600-700% increase of COVID-positive cases in just 5 days in one hospital. Region K applied its collaborative skills from ASPR TRACIE and CDC/Emory University training to bolster its outbreak response. Six months earlier, each GA Healthcare Coalition used Federal funding to prepare for Ebola. Region K, via State of GA Hospital Preparedness Program, researched needs of healthcare providers and determined need around reducing spread of infectious diseases through disinfection. Maximizing funds, they implemented systems that provided versatility and efficacy against C. diff to affect a wide range of pathogens and environments. Region K-HCC purchased, trained on, and implemented hybrid hydrogen peroxide™ (HHP™) fogging systems in area hospitals. Throughout, Region K-HCC capitalized on regional partners, communication, and strategic loaning of equipment and training to accommodate shifting needs in the community. Hospitals disinfected rooms after each COVID positive or person under investigation (PUI) patient release and made HHP systems available for on-site ambulance disinfection. Devices were loaned to long-term care facilities, and when needed, disinfection shifted to police, fire stations, testing/vaccine administration sites, churches, and daycares to help protect personnel and keep key infrastructure open. By creating a resource hub, the Region

K-HCC helped every sector overcome COVID challenges. Pre-emptively shifting disinfection resources led to fewer patients entering an already over-burdened healthcare system. Focusing on effective and versatile disinfection, with strategic communication and resource distribution, the Region K-HCC achieved dynamic success in mitigating the challenges of a prolific COVID-19 outbreak.

Presentation Theme: This poster examines real-world results of one healthcare coalition's pre-COVID planning and how that preparedness was implemented at the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic. Viewers will understand key considerations for developing and deploying a comprehensive, community-wide disinfection plan in the case of a wide-spread outbreak.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:

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