

Homework help is available at the library

Homework Help

With school back in session, the Southwest Georgia Regional Library is ready to help with homework questions. With Tutor.com, you have access to on-demand tutoring that can assist children from elementary age to adult. In addition, you can submit an essay for review or explore the study and test prep resources. To access tutor.com, visit the library's website at swgrl.org and look from eBooks & More. You will need your library card and pin to access.

Graphic Novels

The Seminole County Public Library offers a growing collection of graphic novels for kids. These are great options for reluctant or struggling readers. Some popular series that are available include *Star Wars Jedi Academy*, *Dog Man*, and *Teen Titans Go*. Classics such as the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew also are available as graphic novels as well as nonfic-

tion titles. Check out our catalog at gapines.org for available titles.

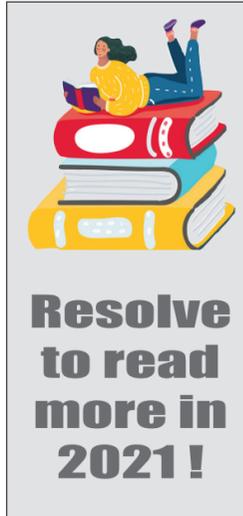
New Books Available

The library has some great new books available for checkout! *All the Colors of Night* by Jayne Ann Krentz, *Before She Disappeared* by Lisa Gardner, and *Twenty* by James Grip-pando. These items and more are available for curbside pickup.

Curbside pickup

Library patrons may request materials and schedule a pickup appointment by calling the library, placing a hold on selections through your library PINES account, or by completing the online request form at swgrl.org/curbside.

The Seminole County Public Library, located at 103 West Fourth Street in Donalsonville, can be reached by calling (229) 524-2665. The library's curbside service hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.



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Patience urged amid slow COVID-19 vaccine rollout

VACCINE from Page 1

COVID-19 vaccines each week, with roughly one-third of that allotment being administered to nursing home residents and staff through a federal distribution program with CVS and Walgreens pharmacies.

That leaves state officials with around 80,000 doses weekly to divvy up, an amount far fewer than the 1.3 million people 65 and older and the state's roughly 536,000 health-care workers who are first in line to receive the vaccine, Kemp said at a news conference Tuesday.

"There are simply more Georgians that want the vaccine than can get it today," Kemp said.

Less than one-third of the nearly 700,000 vaccine doses shipped to Georgia as of late Monday have been administered, according to state Department of Public Health data. Kemp said he aims to have all nursing home staff and residents vaccinated by the end of the month.

Providers began vaccinating Georgians ages 65 and older on Tuesday, unleashing a wave of requests from vaccine hopefuls that flooded local health departments with tens of thousands of calls for appointments. Kemp stressed vaccines are only available to older Georgians where supplies are sufficient.

"Please know that we are working tirelessly to get our limited supply of vaccines to those who need it and who it would do the most good," Kemp

said.

As Kemp dug into the vaccine rollout, lawmakers at the Georgia Capitol were jolted on Tuesday after state Senate Majority Leader Mike Dugan, R-Carrollton, tested positive for COVID-19. Dugan spoke several times from the Senate floor and mingled with other lawmakers while masked on Monday, the first day of the legislative session.

State lawmakers are required to be tested twice per week during the session, though early signs point to gaps in the rules. Georgia House Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, scolded House lawmakers on Tuesday after 74 of the chamber's 180 members skirted mandatory testing the day before.

"If you don't want to keep yourself safe, I'd like you to keep your neighbor safe and me safe and those around you safe," Ralston said.

Georgia has logged more than 6,000 new positive COVID-19 cases daily over the past few days, continuing a spike in transmissions this Winter that saw the state record more than 10,000 new cases in a single day last week, by far the largest amount since the pandemic took root last March.

Along with tight vaccine supplies and high transmission rates, state officials are also dealing with some local providers who have started stockpiling vaccines for their patients in anticipation future shipments may not be enough to cover the two doses needed for full vaccination.

Kemp and Georgia Public Health Commissioner Dr. Kathleen Toomey said state officials will start intervening to re-distribute vaccines from providers that are stockpiling them.

"If it takes me firing up my pickup truck and doing it myself, so be it," Kemp said.

Toomey added officials are looking to overhaul how eligible Georgians schedule vaccine appointments as some counties have seen website glitches in recent days. Providers have also been lax in reporting vaccine data, complicating efforts to secure more shipments with the federal government poised to start shipping vaccines to states based on how quickly they're being administered.

Toomey also said officials are pushing to open large-scale regional vaccination sites to both boost the speed of dose administration and prepare for giving vaccines to far more people once the general public becomes eligible in the coming months.

"The good news is that there's a tremendous demand for the vaccine," said Toomey, noting many health-care workers in rural parts of Georgia have declined to receive the vaccine. "We have a lot of providers but just not sufficient vaccine to give them at this time."

More than 648,000 people in Georgia had tested positive for COVID-19 as of Tuesday afternoon, according to state data. The virus had killed 10,444 Georgians.

Georgia COVID vaccine locator tool launched

LOCATE from Page 1

The agency stresses this is not a centralized scheduling tool but does help find locations and contact information for providers.

The news comes as Phase 1A+ of the vaccine administration process continues. This phase includes health-care workers, residents and staff at long-term care facilities, adults 65 and older and their caregivers - where applicable, law enforcement, firefighters, 911 dispatchers, and first responders.

The timeline for the additional phases in the vaccine rollout process will be announced as soon as quantities of the vaccine are available.

"The process of administering COVID-19 vaccine is more complicated than other common vaccines, such as flu vaccine, and requires providers to have more resources available, including an area where individuals can be monitored for 15 minutes after being

vaccinated," DPH said in a statement. "Many providers with vaccine are still vaccinating their own staffs and patients and are not open to the public for vaccination yet."

As of Friday, Georgia had vaccinated about a quarter of the number of doses it had received with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting the state having one of the lowest vaccination rates.

The latest numbers provided by DPH, however, suggest that percentage administered had increased to roughly a third.

Gov. Brian Kemp also thanked healthcare workers for completing more than 9,500 vaccinations at metro-Atlanta's four mass vaccination sites in the last week.

Meanwhile, some experts say the initially slow rollout isn't entirely the fault of states.

Infectious disease expert Dr. Car-

los Del Rio said the delay in vaccine administration was partly due to the federal government pouring funding into the development of the vaccine and leaving distribution strategy to the states.

Meanwhile, the state claims that Pfizer and Moderna will soon be ramping up production.

For now, Georgia's top health agency is asking the public to have patience as healthcare organizations "work together to get the vaccine distributed in the most efficient and equitable way possible."

As of Friday's update, the DPH reports that 167,057 vaccines have been administered. Pfizer has shipped 261,300 vaccines with 353,925 allocated and Moderna has shipped 294,500 of 360,000 allocated.

The state reports that 1,481 providers have enrolled to provide the vaccine.

Steven Aase joins Ameris Bank as Market President

AMERIS from Page 1

Bay County Economic Development Alliance, the Military Affairs Committee for Bay County Chamber of Commerce, a credit committee member of a local economic development organization, member of a school building committee and a past member of the Rotary Club, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow, Director and Sergeant at Arms. Additionally, Aase has helped

coordinate local United Way participation, has coached youth football for the past five years and is an active member of his church. He currently resides in Chipley, Florida with his family.

Ameris Bank manages over \$18 billion in assets and nearly 300 financial centers across the Southeast. Headquartered in Atlanta, Ameris Bank is fiercely committed to bringing financial peace of mind to the communities

it serves. A subsidiary of Ameris Bancorp (NASDAQ: ABCB), Ameris Bank offers a full range of financial services, including traditional banking and lending products, treasury and cash management, wealth management, insurance premium financing, and mortgage and refinancing solutions. Learn more about Ameris Bank and its full range of financial services at www.amerisbank.com.

Fly's in the Buttermilk; Shoo, Fly, Shoo

This chicken noodle soup is the answer to a warm supper for your family on these cold Winter nights.

Chicken Noodle Soup

1/2 cup of thinly sliced or diced carrots
1/4 cup chopped onion
6 cups chicken broth
1 teaspoon salt
1 and 3/4 cups small or medium egg noodles
1/4 cup chopped celery, optional
1 tablespoon butter
1 and 1/2 cups cooked diced chicken
1/8 teaspoon pepper or to taste

Saute carrots, celery, onion in butter. Add broth, cooked chicken and salt and pepper; bring to a boil. Add noodles. Boil on low for 10 minutes or until noodles are done. Serve warm with some good cornbread or your favorite crackers.

Spice and Herbs

Paprika - a mild, sweet red pepper. Grown in Spain, Central Europe, and the United States.

A colorful aromatic garnish for seasoning different foods. I use paprika very often on deviled eggs, potato salad and in salad dressings.

Allspice - a pea-sized fruit that grows in Mexico, Central and South America. Its flavor resembles a blend of cloves, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Mostly used in pickles, relishes and baking

Betrice Cross Widner



Stay warm and safe.

Thank you for recycling!