

Northeast Georgia Health System Leaders and Community Partners Participate in Emergency Preparedness Drill

On Thursday, September 12, dozens of Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) leaders participated in an emergency drill at Lanier Tech. The drill also included members of the Hall County emergency teams, Gainesville police, the Atlanta branch of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The activity was facilitated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (a branch of the DHS). After four months of preparation remotely, the team flew down from Washington D.C. to facilitate discussion between NGHS and our community partners about the plans, procedures and response actions for specific emergency scenarios.

DHS will develop and share an after-action report to assist with any performance improvement opportunities.

Very few hospitals around the country are provided this unique opportunity to partner with the local DHS region and DHS headquarters. **NGHS is one of the first in the state to have this opportunity.**

Our application for this drill was submitted in late 2023 and approved not only regionally by DHS, but also the national DHS headquarters.

The next step is a full scale "deployment" exercise in 2025. The Department of Homeland Security and NGHS will work together to design, develop, conduct and critique a more intensive, hands-on exercise.