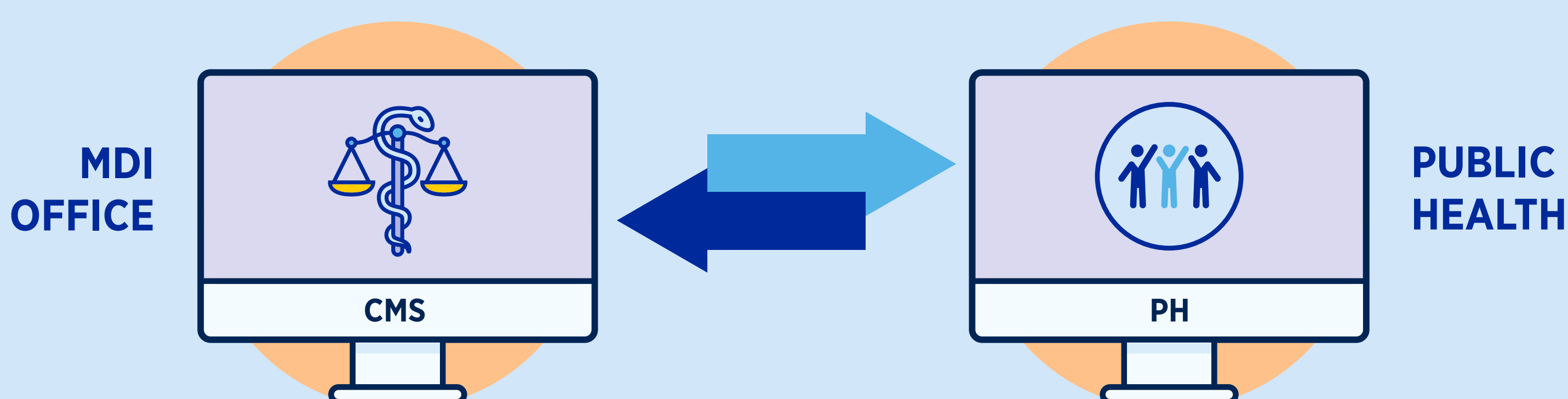# DEKALB COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE (GEORGIA)

Background: The DeKalb County Medical Examiner's Office (DCMEO) conducts inquiries into reported deaths within the jurisdictional boundaries of DeKalb County, Georgia and includes Decatur, Sandy Springs, Alpharetta Metropolitan area and approximately 10% of the Atlanta Metropolitan area. DCMEO serves a population of approximately 758,000 residents, roughly 7% of Georgia's population. The DCMEO accepts jurisdiction for more than 1,200 cases each year and provides full autopsy on approximately 22% of the cases. The DCMEO performs forensic autopsies on-site and may perform other postmortem examinations as an important part of the death investigation process.

The MDI office is providing information to public health in a secure environment

Dataflow	MDI Case Management System (CMS) and Public Health
Project Description	DCMEO is using the FHIR® standard to facilitate exchange of comprehensive mortality toxicology data in real-time to allow Georgia Department of Public Health's surveillance programs such as Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GA-VDRS) and SUDORS to receive toxicology data.
MDI Connect Office	DeKalb County Medical Examiner's Office
CMS Vendor	MDILog
Data Sharing Partner	Georgia Department of Public Health
Data Sharing Vendor	GA-VDRS in house system
Benefits	Improved timeliness of toxicology data sharing Ability to identify patterns and clusters in the mortality data for coordinated response efforts across partners
Challenges	Short timeframe to execute agreements with vendor/subcontractor and complete projects deliverables

Acronyms: • **MDI** – Medicolegal Death Investigation • **CMS** – Case Management System • **HL7** – Health Level 7 • **FHIR** – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources • **NVDRS** – National Violent Death Reporting System • **SUDORS** – State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System • **SAMS** - Secure Access Management Service

About MDI Connect: MDI Connect is a joint initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) and the CDC Foundation. Through MDI Connect, medical examiner and coroner offices work together to enhance data sharing between their offices and public health, toxicology or other agencies. MDI Connect is a collaborative learning environment where MDI offices, data sharing partners, vendors and Fast Healthcare Interoperability (FHIR®) subject matter experts can work together to modernize MDI data practices and work towards interoperability. The goal of this collaborative is to create reusable tools and approaches that will reduce data entry efforts, reduce efforts exchanging data with others and increase access to information for office functioning and research. **For more information visit, MDIconnecthub.org**

MDI **CONNECT**