

**Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT)
Health Alert Network (HAN)
September 15, 2021**

URGENT: Immediate Change to HHS' COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Ordering Process

On the afternoon of September 13, 2021, states were notified of an immediate change in the process for requesting/ordering COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies (mAb) for treating patients with COVID-19 infection or with close exposure to a positive case. To help ensure the consistent availability of these critical products for current and future patients in all geographic areas of the country, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) transitioned from the direct ordering process for monoclonal antibodies from the manufacturer to a state-coordinated distribution system.

HHS will determine each state's weekly amount of mAb products based on cases and use on a week-by-week basis. Healthcare providers must record their utilization of the products promptly into the HHS Teletrack program in order to be eligible to receive additional shipments. Hospitals should continue to report through the Alabama Incident Management System (AIMS). Failure to do immediate reporting may impact future orders, so it is critical that all providers receiving mAb report promptly.

Healthcare providers and hospitals listed by Amerisource as having a monoclonal antibody account will receive a ReadyOp survey link each Monday morning and must complete and submit the survey by 9:00 PM Tuesday. The Alabama Department of Public Health will determine the amount of product to be shipped to each provider location. Allocation amounts will be determined by quantity requested and utilization data. HHS will continue to monitor product utilization rates, COVID-19 case burden, and the overall availability of monoclonal antibodies to determine when to return to the normal direct ordering process. In the meantime, your cooperation in this effort will help ensure that, to the extent feasible, current and future patients receive mAb as needed.

The increased incidence of the Delta variant of COVID-19 has caused a substantial surge in the use of mAb products. Monoclonal antibody treatments help those at high risk for serious COVID illness, individuals who have recently tested positive for the virus, or people who are close contacts of persons who have tested positive for COVID when given early. Monoclonal antibody treatment builds rapid immunity to the virus and helps prevent hospitalization, but it is not a replacement for COVID-19 vaccination.

Providers are to prioritize patients based on their risk of progression to severe COVID disease. Treatment should be given as soon as possible (within 10 days) after a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19, to patients who tested positive, and to individuals who are at high risk for disease progression to severe COVID-19.

Patient Criteria for mAb Treatment for COVID-19

Please refer to the prior HAN Alert for patient eligibility requirements for treatment with mAb found at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/bcd/assets/adph_han_monoclonal_availability_09082021.pdf