



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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#### **Seek tetanus booster shots only if injured**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Alabama Department of Public Health recommends that individuals who receive open wounds or puncture wounds in clean-up efforts after Hurricane Ivan seek medical attention to determine whether a tetanus booster shot is needed.

"Persons who are injured should be evaluated to determine if they should receive tetanus shots," said Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer. "The need for a tetanus shot depends on the type of wound, how many tetanus shots a person previously received, and when the last one was given."

Persons age 7 years and older are advised to receive the Td vaccination, which is a combined vaccine with diphtheria.

Immunizations are available from private physicians or through local health departments. The health care provider will determine whether a tetanus booster is necessary based on individual records. Special recommendations for vaccinations should be made on a case-by-case basis.

The Baldwin County Health Department is providing tetanus immunizations from a mobile van at the Foley Civic Center, 407 E. Laurel Ave., beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday. Immunizations also will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at all county health department sites statewide, including in Robertsedale and Bay Minette

Patients of all ages should be sure to plan for a follow-up visit if told to return.

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