



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RSA Tower 201 Monroe Street, Suite 914 Montgomery, AL 36104

Phone 334-206-5300 Fax 334-206-5534

www.adph.org

ADPH asks providers to target influenza vaccine to persons at highest risk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Charles Woernle, MD
(334) 206-5325

The Alabama Department of Public Health is requesting that all Alabama healthcare providers restrict their supplies of influenza vaccine to those persons at highest risk of severe complications of influenza. This recommendation is prompted by unexpected influenza vaccine shortages announced Tuesday.

"We want to ensure that all available influenza vaccine for this season reaches those individuals at highest risk and health care workers who provide their direct care," said Dr. Charles Woernle, assistant state health officer for disease control and prevention. "We ask that other Alabamians forego or postpone influenza vaccination this year."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in coordination with its Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP), issued interim recommendations for influenza vaccination during the 2004-05 season which are as follows:

Priority groups for vaccination with inactivated influenza vaccine this season are:

- all children aged 6–23 months,
- adults aged 65 years or older,
- persons aged 2–64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions,
- all women who will be pregnant during influenza season,
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities,
- children 6 months-18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy,
- healthcare workers with direct patient care, and
- out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged less than 6 months.

Further actions being taken by the Alabama Department of Public Health will be announced at a news conference Thursday.

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