



## NEWS RELEASE

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## Health department to allocate 128,000 additional doses of flu vaccine

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health announces a plan to facilitate the distribution of an additional 128,000 doses of influenza vaccine. This vaccine will first be prioritized to residents and caregivers in long-term facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other homebound patients in an effort to prevent hospitalization and deaths in the state.

Public Health staff will survey long-term care facilities and evaluate their current needs to determine how to allocate the additional vaccine. The Alabama Department of Public Health will forward this information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who will work with Aventis to arrange for the delivery of the vaccine to the facilities.

Alabama can expect to receive approximately 82,000 of the 128,000 doses before Christmas. The remaining 46,000 doses for Alabama are expected to be received the following month. The additional doses of vaccine are being made available to the private sector by Aventis in effort to compensate for the loss of Chiron vaccine. The health care facilities will be responsible for the purchase of the vaccine.

Earlier this month the Department received 92,000 doses of vaccine which will be administered to individuals statewide through the Public Health system on a first-come, first-served basis on Nov. 16-17. Individuals with the last names beginning with the letters below will be vaccinated as follows:

Tuesday, Nov. 16, A through K

Wednesday, Nov. 17, L through Z

Influenza immunizations will be given to persons in priority groups beginning at 8 a.m. each day until the supplies are exhausted.

Priority groups for vaccination with inactivated influenza vaccine 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.

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