



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ADPH makes interim immunization recommendations for hurricane victims and emergency relief workers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Alabama Department of Public Health advises the public and emergency workers that certain immunizations are recommended to reduce the likelihood of contracting various diseases.

Displaced adults should have a tetanus-diphtheria booster (Td) before they return to their areas of residence:

- if it has been more than 10 years since their last Td booster or
- if they cannot remember when they received their last Td booster.

Children should be brought up to date on their childhood immunizations. These recommendations follow guidelines of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Parental history can be used to determine previous vaccinations if other documentation is not available.

Emergency workers traveling to affected areas should also have a tetanus-diphtheria booster if it has been more than 10 years since their last Td booster, or if they cannot remember when they received their last Td booster.

Emergency workers who will be performing direct patient care or otherwise are expected to have contact with bodily fluids should have received the hepatitis B vaccine series. There is no routine need for hepatitis A vaccine, cholera vaccine, rabies vaccine, meningococcal vaccine or typhoid vaccine.

Questions about immunizations can be directed to the ADPH Division of Immunization at 1-800-469-4599.

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