



COVID-19 Update

Alabama Department of Public Health

May 25, 2021

Getting COVID-19 vaccine into the arms of Alabamians as quickly as possible is our goal.
ADPH is conducting clinics daily, including drive-through clinics in some counties.

COVID-19 Cases—542,562

COVID-19 Deaths—11,124

COVID-19 Hospitalizations (as of May 24)—49,778

Currently eligible for vaccine—everyone 12 years of age and older

Average 1st Doses of Vaccine Shipped to Alabama Per Week—125,000-130,000

Vaccine Doses Administered—2,880,786

Vaccine Doses Delivered to Alabama—4,257,405

Alabama Healthcare Providers Enrolled—1,387

Celebrate Memorial Day Safely

As we honor the men and women who have given their lives for this country, respect your fellow citizens by doing your part to protect them by getting vaccinated for COVID-19. With Memorial Day weekend approaching, families and friends may be gathering to celebrate with cookouts, picnics, and trips to the lake or beach. After the Memorial Day holiday in 2020, an increase in COVID-19 cases followed. Everyone needs to be responsible so we can prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 infections in 2021. Fully vaccinated people can now resume activities without wearing a mask or social distancing. At this time when COVID-19 case numbers are lower and vaccine availability is widespread, unvaccinated people who are hesitant should take this opportunity get vaccinated. The Pfizer vaccine is now available for everyone age 12 and up, and the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available for adults age 18 and older through approximately 1,400 vaccine providers in the state. Celebrations are safer with fully vaccinated people. Please protect yourself and others as we enter the summer season. Remember, what you do affects others and our nation will be stronger with more people vaccinated.

FEMA Community Vaccination Center Updated Dates of Operation

The drive-through FEMA Community Vaccination Center located at Watermark Place (4500 Katies Way) in Bessemer will no longer be open on Sundays. The site will also be closed on May 30 and 31 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. The site will continue to provide vaccinations to citizens six days a week and appointments are available but not required. Appointments can be made on the web scheduler located at <https://myturn.timetap.com>. The website also includes links to documents that will need to be reviewed prior to being vaccinated. These materials are also available on site. No Appointment Required, No ID Required, and No Insurance Required.

COVID-19 Dashboards No Longer Updating on Weekends / K-12 Dashboard Suspended

Alabama's COVID-19 Dashboards will no longer update on weekends. The information will continue to be updated Monday through Friday. The K-12 dashboard will be suspended and reevaluated in the fall once school resumes. Dashboards including vaccine distribution, vaccine clinics, risk indicator, and data and surveillance can be accessed via the COVID-19 Dashboard Hub located here: arcg.is/0brSGj

COVID-19 Vaccine Data for Persons 12-15 Years of Age

Children 12 years and older are now eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Since May 10, 6,460 patients age 12-15 in Alabama have received vaccinations with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. Pfizer is currently the only vaccine available to children and adolescents up to age 18.

Myocarditis and Vaccine Safety Monitoring

Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) can occur in persons, including children and adolescents, from viral infections, including SARS-CoV-2 disease. Myocarditis can specifically occur in a condition known as Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome of Childhood (MIS-C). As part of vaccine safety monitoring, a small number of adolescents and young adults have had myocarditis after receiving an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. At this time, it is unclear whether the vaccine is linked to myocarditis. However, given the emphasis on safety for all vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine, members of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Technical Work Group (VaST) wanted information on any potential for myocarditis post vaccine to be communicated to providers. Dr. Yvonne Maldonado, chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Infectious Diseases, stated, “We look forward to seeing more data about these cases so we can better understand if they are related to the vaccine or if they are coincidental. Meanwhile, it’s important for pediatricians and other clinicians to report any health concerns that arise after vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) so we can systematically track and analyze them, and determine if they signal a real concern.” VAERS can be accessed here: <https://vaers.hhs.gov/>. ADPH continues to recommend COVID-19 vaccine for age-eligible persons. No cases of myocarditis in adolescents and young adults have been reported in Alabama at this time. ADPH places priority on vaccine safety and continues to monitor.

Persons Who Previously Had COVID-19 Should Not Identify as Being Vaccinated

Persons who have previously had COVID-19 should not identify as being vaccinated if they have not received a COVID-19 vaccination. There is increasing scientific evidence in peer reviewed scientific literature that shows that some persons with confirmed COVID-19 may develop a very weak immune response, or none at all. Increasing evidence shows that those who do develop a response from being infected are showing decreasing immunity. Repeat infections in persons previously infected are being seen both in Alabama and nationally. Previous COVID-19 infection cannot be equated to vaccination.

Updated Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Storage Guidelines

Based on a review of recent data submitted by Pfizer, Inc., the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized undiluted, thawed Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine vials to be stored in the refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C (35°F to 46°F) for up to 1 month. This is a change from previous guidance which stated that thawed, undiluted vaccine vials could be stored in the refrigerator for up to 5 days. A fact sheet with for healthcare providers administering vaccine with more information is available here:

www.fda.gov/media/144413/download?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery