

## **COVID-19 Update**

### **Alabama Department of Public Health**

### **February 2, 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. Limited vaccine remains the greatest challenge in Alabama and other states.

COVID-19 Cases—462,938

COVID-19 Deaths—7,894

COVID-19 Hospitalizations (as of February 1) —41,859

Beginning February 8, vaccine eligibility will expand to include phase 1b and people 65 years and older. The Alabama COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan outlines the various phases, and is available here: [www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf)

Currently eligible for vaccine—326,000 healthcare providers, nursing home residents, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and 350,000 persons age 75+

Average 1<sup>st</sup> Doses of Vaccine Shipped to Alabama Per Week—50,000 to 60,000

Vaccine Doses Administered—373,907

#### **Vaccination Eligibility Check and Scheduling Portal**

The COVID-19 Vaccination Eligibility Check and Scheduling Portal is available at [www.alcovidvaccine.gov](http://www.alcovidvaccine.gov). The portal allows people to schedule available vaccine appointments, access a map of drive-through and walk-in locations, and sign up to be notified as new priority groups are available to receive vaccine. Appointments may not be available immediately at this time, as ADPH continues to be limited by the amount of vaccine provided by the federal government. Access to appointments will grow as supply from the federal government increases. As of this morning, 18,820 appointments have been scheduled since the portal launched on Monday afternoon. The portal is seeing around 300 active users at a time, and has booked an average of 900 appointments per hour.

#### **Current Assessment of Vaccine Supply**

Current assessment of vaccine supply and expectations for shipments over the next month indicate that many public health clinics will have to focus heavily on providing second doses for the month of February. Individuals are encouraged to visit drive-through and walk-in clinics, or other vaccine providers, if appointments are not currently available at a county health department location.

#### **Large Scale Drive Thru Clinics in 8 Alabama Locations**

Beginning the week of February 8, there will be 8 large scale drive-through clinics throughout the state. Clinics will be located in Anniston, Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, and Tuscaloosa. The goal is for each location to be able to give 1,000 vaccines per day that week, totaling 40,000 doses administered. Additional information will be provided about the location in each city.

#### **Vaccine Distribution Plans Adjusted**

We have had an extensive plan in place to administer COVID-19 vaccine statewide since October. The plan must pivot based on priorities from the federal government. Adjustments needed to be made to offer vaccine first to those at highest risk because of the small quantity of vaccine.

#### **Accelerating Pace of Vaccine Rollout**

Healthcare provider surveys will help ensure vaccine administration is expedited. ADPH is surveying

every healthcare provider in the state to ensure that all administered doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been properly reported in our electronic data system and to determine if there is any available vaccine that needs to be redistributed to other providers. To expedite vaccine administration, ADPH is removing unused doses and redistributing the vaccine to providers who will give shots faster. No vaccine doses have been discarded-4,000 doses have currently been identified and are in the process of being relocated.

Vaccine Doses Delivered to Alabama—798,125

Alabama Healthcare Providers Enrolled—883

Toll-free Telephone Lines for Appointments—165

**Expansion of age groups for vaccination to persons 65 and above**

At the final Operation Warp Speed briefing on January 12, 2021, spokespersons for HHS recommended that states expand age groups for vaccination to persons 65 and above. However, these changes have not been made in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for when vaccine supply is limited. Vaccine supply is limited and does not meet demand at this time for the current numbers of persons identified as healthcare workers, first responders, fire, police, and persons 75 and above. Current recommendations from CDC are based on those from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). ACIP is an independent panel of medical and public health experts who provide vaccine guidance to CDC.