



## NEWS RELEASE

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## Influenza vaccine will be available at county health departments by late November

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vaccine delivery delays are continuing to take place during the 2006-2007 influenza season for many influenza vaccine providers. Public health has received only about 17 percent of the doses ordered for use in county health departments. These doses have been shipped to the public health areas already affected by influenza. Cases of influenza have been confirmed in Dale, Henry and Houston counties. Influenza activity has been reported in Mobile and Walker counties.

Doses of influenza vaccine will continue to be shipped to the department through the month of October and well into November. The majority of the vaccine is expected to be received by the end of November. People are encouraged to contact their medical provider to determine the availability of vaccine and clinic times.

County health departments will be administering influenza vaccine to persons in the recommended high-risk groups and to those other persons who wish to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill from influenza. Annual vaccination against influenza is recommended to reduce the risk of influenza-related hospitalization, and December and January influenza immunizations are not too late to be effective.

Counties which have been sent vaccine are Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Marion, Walker and Winston in Public Health Area 1 and Barbour, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston and Pike in Public Health Area 10.

Outbreaks of influenza usually occur during the typical influenza season that extends from November to March in Alabama. The public also is reminded to follow basic infection control measures. These include covering the mouth when coughing and washing hands frequently.

A schedule of county health department influenza clinics can be found by either going to [www.adph.org/immunization](http://www.adph.org/immunization) or calling the Immunization Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health at 1-800-469-4599. For more information about influenza, contact your health care provider or local county health department.

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