

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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## STATE OF ALABAMA

May 5, 2008

In April 2007, the first Alabama Comprehensive Pandemic Influenza Operational Plan was submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for assessment. As anticipated, there are some changes and updates needed. Alabama has the opportunity to improve this plan and address these issues. Dr. Donald E. Williamson, Alabama's State Health Officer, has been given the lead role in planning for pandemic influenza, but it is understood that his department cannot plan alone for the economic, social, and political impact of pandemic influenza in Alabama.

The updated Alabama Comprehensive Pandemic Influenza Operational Plan is due to DHHS on June 16, 2008, and the results will be made public in the fall of 2008. We need your department's cooperation in writing a continuity of operations plan, including a pandemic influenza incident plan. The plan goes far beyond public health and medical preparedness. This request acknowledges that during an emergency state government will simultaneously strive to continue its basic operations, respond to the influenza pandemic, and facilitate the maintenance of critical infrastructure.

On May 16, 2008, the Alabama Department of Public Health will convene a Pandemic Influenza Operational Plan Task Force to ensure every department understands pandemic influenza, their department's role, and how to write an operational plan. The Task Force will meet as needed to report on the progress of each department's plan. Dr. Williamson's office will coordinate the plan submission in June.

Please appoint a representative who is empowered to make agency decisions to ensure all objectives are addressed. Please contact Ms. Angie Wright by May 8th at (334) 206-7947, or via email at [angiewright@adph.state.al.us](mailto:angiewright@adph.state.al.us), with the name of your representative. Additional information will be provided to your representative prior to the meeting. Thank you for your commitment to Alabama's pandemic influenza preparedness

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Riley".

Bob Riley  
Governor of Alabama

BR/ps/ms