

# ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The RSA Tower, 201 Monroe Street, P.O. Box 303017, Montgomery, AL 36130-3017  
(334) 206-5300 • FAX (334) 206-5534 Web Site: <http://www.adph.org>

## *NEWS RELEASE*

Alabama Department of Public Health opening medical needs shelters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Contact name  
(xxx) xxx – xxxxx  
e-mail address

The Alabama Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and the Alabama Department of Human Resources, announces that in anticipation of the arrival of Hurricane \_\_\_\_\_, a limited number of medical needs shelters will be opened for individuals with certain medical conditions. Public Health has activated \_\_\_\_\_ personnel to support community shelters and medical needs shelters. Currently, \_\_\_\_\_ (number) medical needs shelters will be opening in the state.

Medical needs shelters should only be utilized as a last resort by those persons who live at home with stable medical conditions that require the ongoing assistance of an at-home care provider and who need to relocate because of the storm and who do not have an alternative location and source of care. If possible, such persons should seek shelter at the home of a family member or friend.

Persons seeking shelter in a medical needs shelter **MUST** be accompanied by one of their usual care providers and bring enough medications, other treatments, supplies and equipment to serve their needs for up to \_\_\_\_\_ hours/days.

Examples of persons who may qualify for a medical needs shelter include persons who require minimal to moderate assistance with activities of daily living and are:

- Wheelchair bound
- Dependent on electricity to operate medical equipment
- Living with mild dementia without abusive or wandering behavior
- Ostomy patients

- Catheter patients
- Experiencing frequent incontinence
- Persons who require assistance with medication that needs to be injected
- Persons who require oxygen, nebulizer or sleep apnea therapy that has been stabilized/maintained at home for 30 days or more
- Hospice patients
- Intravenous therapy patients
- Persons who need assistance with simple dressing changes
- Peritoneal dialysis patients, if either self-administered or with family assistance without complication

Persons with more severe conditions, those on non-portable ventilators or with an unstable medical condition, should seek shelter or care at a hospital or other appropriate institution. Persons with stable, underlying medical conditions that do not require the assistance of a care provider should seek shelter in mass care shelters.

Medical needs shelters will be opened\_\_\_\_\_ (date, time), at the following locations:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_