NEWS RELEASES

COVID-19 vaccination appointments available for Alabamians

NEWSROOM • JANUARY 8, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Karen Landers, M.D.
(256) 383-1231

Spanish Version (https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/news/assets/covid_newsrelease_01-08-21_spanish.pdf)

NOTE: Due to massive call volume, callers to the COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling Hotline are encouraged to try their call again later if they get a busy signal.

The hotline has received over 338,000 calls within the first few hours of operation. We are rapidly adding staff to assist callers and appreciate your patience.

Gov. Kay Ivey and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) announced Friday that ADPH will provide COVID-19 vaccinations for people 75 years or older, first responders, including law enforcement and firefighters, statewide by appointment only effective January 18. Appointments at locations throughout the state are made first come, first serve. The addition of these

groups is not a full expansion into the next phase of the vaccine rollout.

“I appreciate the swift work of ADPH to establish a system to efficiently provide our limited resources of vaccine to as many Alabamians as possible,” Gov. Ivey said. “We have previously worked to provide vaccines to our health care workers who are on the front lines of the pandemic, and now, are diligently working to expand access to our seniors, law enforcement officers and various members of our first responders. It is critical for everyone to remain patient; demand is high, and supply is low. ADPH and their partners are working around-the-clock to assist as many people as they can.”

Alabama continues to vaccinate more than 326,000 health care workers and nursing home residents who are most at-risk of contracting COVID-19. As the vaccine uptake for this category is satisfied, ADPH is now encouraging sites to vaccinate persons in the 75-plus age group and those in the law enforcement and firefighter vocations in order to prevent any loss of vaccine due to cold chain storage requirements.

“We recognize that demand for vaccine exceeds supply,” said State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris. “While there is still an insufficient amount of the vaccine supply, we want to maximize our resources to help protect Alabamians at high risk. County health departments are working with their local points of distribution to assess what their vaccination reach has been. Decisions about the next groups to vaccinate are made at the community level with community engagement. If the very high-risk population has been covered adequately, providers can then begin vaccinating people in the other priority groups.”

Nearly 350,000 people in the state of Alabama would qualify for a vaccine at 75 years old and older.

To schedule an appointment for the free COVID-19 vaccination at a county health department, individuals may call the ADPH toll-free phone number at 1-855-566-5333. Telephone calls are answered from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. seven days a week. Vaccination locations can be viewed at this link, **go.usa.gov/xARKp (https://go.usa.gov/xARKp)** and additional specific information, such as what to bring and what to wear, will be provided when appointments are made.

For information about COVID-19 vaccine, visit **alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine (https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/index.html)**.

County health departments throughout Alabama provide a wide range of confidential and professional services. Contact your local county health department for additional information.

Mission: To promote, protect, and improve Alabama’s health

Vision: Healthy People. Healthy Communities. Healthy Alabama.

(https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/index.html)

RSA Tower, 201 Monroe Street, Suite 900
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: (334) 206-5300 | Fax: (334) 206-5520

(https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/blog/2021/01/08.html)