



Smallpox vaccinations administered to 128 persons

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One hundred twenty-eight public health and hospital employees received smallpox vaccinations Feb. 18-22 at health department clinic sites.

The Alabama Department of Public Health received 10,000 doses of smallpox vaccine on Feb. 11 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Local area public health personnel are working with hospitals that wish to have voluntary vaccination of appropriate health care providers who would serve on the hospital response team. Local sites will be determined based on the response from the hospital community. The first phase of smallpox vaccination for health department and hospital personnel should take approximately 45 days.

Alabama's smallpox preparedness plans include the creation of vaccinated teams

across the state. Each of the 11 public health areas of Alabama is expected to have one smallpox public health response team and one or more hospital-based smallpox health care response teams. Should there be an actual case or cases of smallpox identified, these teams will be mobilized to vaccinate and follow up with persons exposed, and to care for those with smallpox.

Additional information on smallpox and smallpox vaccine can also be found on the Alabama Department of Public Health Web site at <http://www.adph.org/riskcommunications>.

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