



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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H1N1 vaccine administration goes well in Northwest Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Staff members of Public Health Area 1 in Northwest Alabama have administered 11,700 doses of H1N1 influenza vaccine at county health departments and school-based clinics.

Vaccine is being made available before the Christmas break in school-based clinics for children under age 10 at schools throughout the area. Nasal mist vaccine, which uses a weakened virus, is being administered at area schools. Parental permission is required. County health department clinics continue to make H1N1 vaccine available to risk groups at their local health departments.

Dr. Karen Landers, a pediatrician and area health officer, said, "The H1N1 vaccine is safe and effective. Vaccination is the best way to reduce the risk of infection with this virus."

Since H1N1 was first identified in Alabama in April 2009, there have been two known influenza-related deaths in the area, one in Colbert County and one in Walker County. There have been 36 documented influenza-related deaths in Alabama since July 2009.

For more information about H1N1 influenza, visit www.adph.org.