



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Alabama Department of Public Health is opening additional medical needs shelter in Troy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Human Resources, announces that an additional medical needs shelter is being opened at Troy Regional Medical Center, Second Floor, in Troy Sunday.

A limited number of medical needs shelters are being opened for individuals with certain medical conditions. Public Health has activated 375 personnel from 42 counties to support community shelters and medical needs shelter. Currently, six medical needs shelters are open 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 72 hours.

Examples of persons who may qualify for a medical needs shelter include persons who need assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) and have conditions and/or require equipment or treatment such as:

*Portable ventilators

*Intravenous therapy

*Oxygen, nebulizer, or sleep apnea therapy that has been stable/maintained at home for 30 or more days.

*Wheel-chair-bound patients

*Frequently incontinent persons (urinary/bowel)

*Diabetics who require assistance in their insulin medication

*Simple-dressing changes of those requiring assistance with ADLs

*Peritoneal dialysis, if the person self-administers or receives family assistance without complications and requires assistance with ADLs

*Mild dementia without abusive or wandering behavior

*Mental illness/mental retardation with non-agitated behavior

*Ostomy patients

*Foley/supra-pubic catheter patients

Activities of daily living include bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, transfers and ambulation.

Persons with more severe conditions, e.g., 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 were opened Saturday at the following locations: Birmingham--Boutwell Auditorium; Montgomery--Fire Department on Ray Thorington Road; Dothan--First Baptist Church; Prattville--124 South Memorial Drive (adjacent to Baptist Hospital); Mobile--Baker High School;. Greenville--Greenville High School.

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