



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Increase in respiratory illness reported in southeast Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Houston County Health Department, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are investigating a cluster of respiratory illnesses of unknown origin in southeast Alabama.

Seven people have been admitted to a hospital with fever, cough and shortness of breath. Two of the seven have died. Laboratory samples have been obtained from all patients. Laboratory testing continues at both ADPH Bureau of Clinical Laboratories and CDC's Respiratory Laboratory. ADPH and CDC have recommended the hospital use respiratory precautions, which include staff using N95 masks when caring for patients presenting with respiratory symptoms.

If you or your family members have respiratory symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath, please contact your health care provider to be evaluated.

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