

November 21, 2020

Update on COVID-19 vaccine program

MOBILE, Ala. — Dr. L. Scott Chavers, an epidemiologist with the Mobile County Health Department (MCHD), has more than 23 years of professional experience in epidemiologic research in both academia and industry. His research has included work on the epidemiology of infectious diseases, oncology, immunology, respiratory, birth defects, pharmaceutical products and vaccines, and methodological, conceptual, and ethical issues in epidemiology and global public health.

Earlier this week, Dr. Chavers said the pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna announced results from clinical programs evaluating vaccines targeting the virus that causes COVID-19. On Friday, Pfizer filed for approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for its vaccine under Emergency Use Authorization. It is anticipated Moderna will file shortly.

“MCHD anticipates recommendations from the FDA Advisory Committee on December 10th, and potential of vaccine availability to healthcare workers and first responders by the end of 2020 and to the general public in the spring of 2021,” Dr. Chavers said.

“We are strongly encouraged by reports of two highly efficacious and safe vaccines against the virus that causes COVID-19 and believe a dramatic turning point in the COVID-19 pandemic is close at hand.”

MCHD reminds everyone to stay vigilant during this time in protecting themselves and others from COVID-19 by wearing their masks, washing hands, avoiding large gatherings, maintaining good hygiene, socially distancing, and knowing their COVID-19 status.

“I know we are all tired of COVID-19,” said Dr. Bernard H. Eichold II, Health Officer for Mobile County. “Please do everything you can to prevent getting COVID-19.

“The vaccine should start arriving next month. The process to end COVID-19 will begin.”

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