

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Alabama State Board of Education

January 24, 2007

<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

Governor Bob Riley President

TO:

Randy McKinney District I President Pro Tem

> Betty Peters District 11

Stephanie W. Bell District III

Dr. Ethel H. Hall District IV Vice President Emerita

> Ella B. Bell District V

David F. Byers, Jr. District VI

> Sandra Ray District VII Vice President

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor District VIII

> Joseph B. Morton Secretary and Executive Officer

City and County Superintendents of Education

City and County Principals

City and County Technology Coordinators

FROM:

Joseph B. Morton

State Superintendent of Education

RE:

Pandemic Flu Preparedness

We are all aware of the consequences of a flu epidemic in our schools. The losses of educational opportunities are greatly affected when faculty and students are absent from the classroom. Since the meeting with Mike Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services, in Birmingham on February 22, 2006, we have been collaborating with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Channing Bete Company to provide training for the local education agencies (LEAs) on pandemic influenza preparedness.

Now, the ADPH is providing pandemic flu preparedness CDs through a partnership between Channing Bete Company and the Alabama State Department of Education (SDE). The CDs contain an automated presentation kit designed to provide a 60-, 45-, or 30-minute presentation on pandemic flu preparedness. These kits were prepared to provide information and guidance to faculty, staff, students, parents, and the community in an effort to limit the possibility of an influenza outbreak of pandemic proportion.

Each school system will be receiving the four CDs: Pandemic Flu Preparedness for Grades K-3; Pandemic Flu Preparedness for Grades 4-6; Pandemic Flu Preparedness for Junior High; and Individuals and Families, Pandemic Flu Preparedness for High School. The License Agreement with Channing Bete Company allows for the CDs to be placed on the school system server and accessed by all board employees for the purpose of educating faculty, staff, students, and parents on pandemic flu preparedness.

For clarification or additional questions and concerns, please telephone Mr. Tom Mock or Dr. Sue B. Adams at 334-242-8165.

JBM/SBA/KM

FY07-2118