



Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
STATE HEALTH OFFICER

February 13, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO
REBECCA PIERCE @xqu5@cdc.gov
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Letter of Support to Coordinate Multi-state Adverse Events Investigation

I am writing regarding the recent reports of serious adverse events, including deaths, following receipt of the antibiotic ceftriaxone, as identified by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) in December 2024.

Historically, serious adverse events following ceftriaxone have been extremely rare. As of mid-January, ADPH was aware of 11 adverse events reported following ceftriaxone use. The etiology of these events is unclear, but the clustered nature of the reports is extremely concerning.

Given this concerning rise in reports of serious adverse events following ceftriaxone, ADPH would strongly support a centrally coordinated multi-jurisdictional investigation of adverse events following ceftriaxone reported to state, local, and territorial health departments in the U.S. from September 2024 to present. ADPH would also recommend multi-jurisdictional technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A multi-jurisdictional coordinated investigation will provide key information to public health jurisdictions regarding key epidemiologic characteristics of events reported at the national level and establish whether there are links to specific medical products or medication administration practices.

This approach will streamline and strengthen the response and support rapid identification of common adverse event presentations and exposures, as opposed to multiple jurisdictional investigations independently addressing serious adverse event reports.

ADPH would continue to retain ownership of and is responsible for all data collected within their respective jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherri Davidson".

Sherri Davidson, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Director, Office of Informatics & Data Analytics
State Epidemiologist

SD/SJ

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The logo for the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). It features the acronym "PHAB" in a large, bold, blue font. Below it, the text "Advancing public health performance" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "Accredited Health Department" is in a very small, black font.