



PUTNAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509 ■ 845-808-1390
www.putnamcountyny.gov/health

A PHAB-ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MaryEllen Odell
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Michael J. Nesheiwat, MD
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

Public Health Advisory

April 6, 2021, 4PM

Putnam County Department of Health Detects Late Season Spike in Influenza Incidence

The Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) has detected a sharp increase in incidence of influenza in the county in the most recent reporting week. Incidence jumped from 15 cases during the week ending 03.26.2022, to 85 in the week ending 04.02.2022. Eighty-five percent of cases were in persons 17 years old or younger. Incidence is highest in the eastern side of the county. Ninety four percent of cases in the most recent week were flu A.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is also reporting increasing incidence statewide. Healthcare providers can consult weekly reports published by [PCDOH](#) and [NYSDOH](#) for more detailed surveillance data and to stay current on this season's local and regional flu activity.

Healthcare providers can help control the spread of flu and COVID-19:

- Differential diagnosis and diagnostics for patients presenting with respiratory illness should include influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses
- Counsel patients to reduce risk of transmission through established prevention methods
 - Covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing, social distancing, and use of face masks in public places are useful to reduce spread of all respiratory viruses
 - Patients should stay home whenever they don't feel well, not only when they don't feel well enough to go to work, school, or other activities outside the home
- Recommend and administer vaccines
 - Flu vaccine should be offered to all patients who have not yet been vaccinated this season
 - COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to all patients that have not yet been vaccinated or are eligible and due for a booster
- A detailed clinical algorithm for patients with acute respiratory illness symptoms can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/testing-guidance-for-clinicians.htm>
- More information on influenza for healthcare providers can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact the PCDOH Communicable Disease Control Division at (845) 808-1390.