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Putnam County Health Commissioner Provides Flu Update

Brewster, NY—While flu activity continues to be considered widespread in New York State, the new cases are definitely on the decline.

“Although final data has not been collected, Putnam County residents seem to have fared relatively well,” says Allen Beals, MD, JD, Commissioner of Health for Putnam County. As a possible explanation, Dr. Beals points to the almost 5000 flu vaccines administered by his department in addition to the vaccines residents obtained from their private physicians and local pharmacists.

Dr. Beals additionally reports that in the district without a school-based flu clinic for students and staff, there was an elevation in sick days and absenteeism related to the flu.

“Next year we expect to have school-based influenza vaccination in all six Putnam County school districts,” says Dr. Beals. “In this way we can be sure to protect all our children.”

The Health Department’s school-based clinics began in 2010 with only two school districts participating in the program. The program has gained success and popularity through the concerted efforts of the Health Department, growing concerns related to flu epidemics, and the convenience of the school-based service. Parents and families save time by eliminating that extra trip to the physician.

The Health Department’s mission is to improve and protect the health of Putnam County residents through prevention of illness and injury. Core services include community health assessment, disease surveillance and control, environmental health protection, family health promotion and health education. For more information, please visit our website at www.putnamcountyny.com; or visit our social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

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