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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FREE FLU VACCINE AT “VOTE & VAX” EVENT, NOVEMBER 6 New Paperless Pre-Registration Streamlines Process Further

Online registration has opened for the 2012 “Vote & Vax” Influenza Clinic, conducted by the Putnam County Department of Health. The annual event offers **free** flu immunization for individuals, 19 years of age and older, who live or work in New York State. It will be held at Brewster High School on Election Day, November 6, from 3 to 7pm.

“This year we are using a new paperless, pre-registration process and clinic participants are being asked to log in and select a time slot,” explains Putnam County Commissioner of Health, Allen Beals, MD. The first slot is from 3 to 5pm; the second runs from 5 to 7pm. “We have a very streamlined procedure in place already—this will fine tune the process further,” Dr. Beals continues. The Putnam County Health Department has immunized as many as 300 people in an hour at peak capacity, with minimal waiting at past clinics.

To register, go online at www.putnamflu.com and follow the instructions, or visit the county website at www.putnamcountyny.com. **Pre-registration online is highly recommended**, since only a limited number of computers will be available onsite at the clinic for those who have not pre-registered.

Vote & Vax is part of a nationwide campaign designed to increase vaccination rates by

providing shots at, or close to, public polling places. “For the Health Department it also provides the opportunity to conduct a ‘POD’ drill,” explains Kathy Percacciolo, RN, BSN, supervising public health nurse. Point-of-Dispensing (POD) drills help health department staff practice and enhance the skills necessary to respond effectively in a public health emergency.

The mission of the health department is to improve and protect the health of the county’s nearly 100,000 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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