

ALLEN BEALS, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner of Health

ROBERT MORRIS, PE
Director of Environmental Health



MARYELLEN ODELL
County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509
845-808-1390

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 3, 2013

Contact: Barbara Ilardi, Public Information Officer, (845) 808-1390

**MORE THAN 2200 GET FLU SHOTS AT SCHOOL;
Next Flu Clinic Scheduled for December 11 at PCDOH**

Brewster, NY – “We’re ready” declared Commissioner of Health Allen Beals, M.D., following the completion of the Health Department’s school-based flu initiative in all six of Putnam County’s school districts. Dr. Beals was referring to preparing residents for the peak of influenza season which typically falls in January or February, while illness may linger as late as May.

“Because children serve as a reservoir for the flu, spreading it to the general population, it is particularly important that children get vaccinated,” Dr. Beals noted, praising the Superintendents of all school districts for providing access, and especially County Executive MaryEllen Odell for her vigorous support of the program.

“Not only is it convenient for parents to have their children vaccinated at school, but it promotes their education by decreasing potential sick days,” continued Dr. Beals.

So far this year more than 4000 vaccinations have been given countywide by the Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH), of which 2226 were in the schools. The school numbers represent an increase of 65%, compared to last season’s 1352 school total. During the 2012/2013 flu season, countywide the Health Department administered almost 5000 flu vaccinations to residents—an accomplishment that has been credited with the limited flu impact last year in Putnam, while the rest of the nation fared much worse.

The PCDOH’s next flu clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 11, coinciding with National Influenza Vaccination Week, which runs from December 8 through 14. The clinic runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the main health department office at 1 Geneva Road; no appointment is necessary. Anyone aged 3 years and older is eligible. The fee, covering vaccine cost and administration, is \$25. There is no fee for those with a Medicare card.

The mission of the Putnam County Department of Health is to improve and protect the health of our community, made up of nearly 100,000 residents. 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.gov or visit our social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealth.

###