

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



MARYELLEN ODELL
County Executive

ROBERT MORRIS, P.E.
Director of Environmental Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 14, 2012

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

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT SCHEDULES “LAST CHANCE”
FLU VACCINATION CLINIC FOR JANUARY 9**

Brewster, NY—The influenza season is off to an early start. Already 51 counties, plus all five boroughs of New York City, have reported flu activity. Total reported cases in the state more than doubled in a one-week period and a few local physician offices in Putnam have run out of the vaccine. The Putnam County Department of Health is hosting its final public flu vaccination clinic next month on Wednesday, January 9, from 3 to 7 pm, at the Health Department’s main office at One Geneva Road in Brewster. A snow date has been set for the following Wednesday, January 16, at the same time and location. Call the flu hot line at 845-808-1390, or visit the PCDOH’s Facebook page @ www.facebook.com/putnamhealth for notification of a postponement.

“While getting immunized early is preferable,” says Allen Beals, MD, Putnam County’s Commissioner of Health, “if you have not yet received your shot, it is still important to do so since the flu season can run another four months.” Dr. Beals and County Executive MaryEllen Odell received their flu shots back on September 11 when the Health Department kicked off its immunization schedule. Since then more than 3,500 residents have been immunized by the Health Department at public and school-based clinics.

The January 9th clinic is open to individuals age 3 and older, who live or work in New York State.

-more-

The fee for flu vaccine is \$10 which covers the cost of the vaccine. Those 60 years and older, or with a Medicare card, can receive the vaccine free of charge.

Appointments are not necessary, but online pre-registration is strongly encouraged. To register, participants can go online @ www.putnamflu.com, or visit the county website at www.putnamcountyny.com. Registrants can choose from four time slots: 3 to 4 pm, 4 to 5 pm, 5 to 6 pm, or 6 to 7pm.

The paperless registration process was previously used for the flu clinic held at Brewster High School on November 30, when more than 600 residents received flu shots in three hours. The Putnam County Department of Health organized that event as a “POD” drill, referring to a “Point-Of-Dispensing” exercise to test systems used in the event of an actual public health emergency, and the New York State Department of Health provided the free vaccine.

The Health Department’s mission is to improve and protect the health of Putnam County residents through prevention of illness and injury. 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.

#####