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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 24, 2014

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Influenza Widespread in NYS, “Last-Chance” Flu Clinic Offered Jan. 6 at Putnam County Department of Health

Brewster, NY—Flu activity is now widespread in New York State, with 47 counties and all 5 New York City boroughs reporting confirmed cases for the week ending December 13. Influenza is unpredictable, but the predominant strain circulating this year has been associated with some of the more severe flu seasons in the past. Vaccination is key in reducing the severity of symptoms, hospitalizations and deaths, even if the vaccine is not a perfect match, as has been reported this year.

Flu season usually peaks in February, so it is not too late to get vaccinated. The Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) is offering a “last-chance” flu clinic, Tuesday, January 6, from 2 to 6:30 p.m., at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster, for residents still needing a vaccination.

The clinic is open to all Putnam County residents, 3 years and older. The fee for flu vaccine is \$25 for residents under 60 years of age. Those 60 years and older, or with a Medicare card, can receive the vaccine free of charge. High-dose flu vaccine is being offered for seniors, 65 years and older (as studies show this vaccine is more effective for this population). Proof of residency (driver’s license) and Medicare card is required.

No appointments are necessary. Forms will be available online at the Putnam County website at <http://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/immunization>. In order to streamline the onsite process, people are encouraged to download the forms, complete them and bring them to the clinic. Forms will also be available at the clinic, if needed. In the event of inclement weather, please call

the PCDOH flu hotline at 845-808-1390.

The Health Department's mission is to improve and protect the health of the Putnam County community, composed of nearly 100,000 residents. Core services include community health assessment, disease surveillance and control, emergency preparedness, 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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