

Michael J. Nesheiwat, M.D.
Interim Commissioner of Health



MaryEllen Odell
County Executive

Robert Morris, P.E., M.P.H.
Director of Environmental Health

Department of Health
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509
(845) 808-1390

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 21, 2016

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

**“Last Chance” Public Flu Vaccination Clinic Scheduled for December 6
at the Putnam County Department of Health**

Brewster, NY – The influenza season is upon us with cases of flu being reported sporadically across the state, including Putnam County. In the United States, flu activity is usually highest between December and February, but cases may linger into late spring. With flu activity starting to increase and family and friends gathering for the holidays, flu vaccination is the best tool to protect yourself and your loved ones from this illness. The Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) is hosting a public flu vaccination clinic Tuesday, December 6, coinciding with National Influenza Vaccination Week, a national awareness week focused on highlighting the importance of flu vaccination.

The clinic hours will be 2 to 6:30 p.m., at the main health department office at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster. No appointments are necessary. Any Putnam County resident, 18 years and older, is eligible to receive flu vaccine at this clinic. The fee, covering vaccine cost and administration, is \$25. There is no fee for those over age 65 or with a Medicare card. High-dose flu vaccine will be available for individuals, 65 years and older, which studies have shown appears more effective in fighting flu in seniors. The nasal spray flu vaccine and pneumonia vaccine will not be available at this clinic.

“If you have not yet received your flu shot, it is important to do so as soon as possible,” states Interim Health Commissioner Michael J. Nesheiwat, M.D. “It takes about two weeks after receiving vaccination for the immune system to build the antibodies your body needs in order to provide protection against the flu.”

So far this year more than 3500 flu vaccinations have been given by the PCDOH; 2421 of these were administered in the schools. The more individuals who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from the flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women and individuals with certain health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications. For questions concerning flu vaccination or in the event of inclement weather, please call the Health Department at (845) 808-1390.

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, emergency preparedness, 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 @PutnamHealthNY.

###