



Department of Health

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County Executive

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Last Chance” Flu Clinic Set for Dec. 5 at the Putnam County Department of Health, as part of National Influenza Vaccination Week from Dec. 3 through 9

BREWSTER, NY—With family and friends gathering for the holidays, and flu activity on the rise, the Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) is hosting its “last chance” public flu vaccination clinic on Tuesday, December 5, during National Influenza Vaccination Week. The clinic will be held at the main health department office at 1 Geneva Road in Brewster, from 2 to 6:30 p.m. No appointments are necessary. National Influenza Vaccination Week, which runs from December 3 to 9, focuses on the importance of flu vaccination.

“The health department has been busy this year protecting our residents by providing their annual flu shots,” said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. So far this flu season more than 3318 flu vaccinations have been given by the PCDOH; 2336 of these were administered in the schools.

“If you have not yet received your flu shot, now is the time to get it,” states Interim Health Commissioner Michael J. Nesheiwat, M.D. “It takes about two weeks after receiving the vaccination for the immune system to build the antibodies your body needs in order to protect against the flu. Flu activity in New York is usually highest between December and February, but illnesses often linger into spring.”

Any Putnam County resident, 18 years and older, is eligible to receive a flu vaccine at the clinic. The fee is \$25 to cover the cost of the vaccine, plus administering it. There is no fee for those over age 65 or anyone 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.

The more individuals who get vaccinated, the better the protection for everyone, 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, please call the Health Department at (845) 808-1390. If the weather is bad, use the same number to check for a possible cancellation.

The mission of the Putnam County Department of Health, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), 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 County 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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