



PUTNAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509 ■ 845-808-1390
www.putnamcourty.ny.gov/health
A PHAB-ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MaryEllen Odell
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Michael J. Nesheiwat, MD
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Erin Ray Pascaretti, Public Information Officer, 845-808-1390, x43262

Coronavirus Pandemic Disrupts Routine Vaccination, Putting Children at Risk; *Important to Get Kids Back on Track*

BREWSTER, NY—Health officials have a new concern resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. While the practice of social or physical distancing has been quite effective in slowing the spread of that disease, there has been a significant decline in vaccination rates for the 14 preventable childhood diseases. The Putnam County Department of Health and other health experts at the CDC are among those sounding a nationwide alert for a significant decline in the number of all children who received routine childhood immunizations.

“We can look at two sets of numbers and see there has been a large decrease in the number of children receiving their routine vaccinations for all the preventable childhood illnesses,” said Michael J. Nesheiwat, MD, Putnam County’s Commissioner of Health. “The first relates to vaccines being ordered by physicians through the Vaccines for Children program, and the second set of data is the number of vaccines given by eight large U.S. health care organizations.” The Vaccines for Children program administers vaccines to approximately 50 percent of U.S. children aged 0 to 18 years. The decline in orders and administration began the week after the national emergency declaration.

Parents of children who have fallen behind in childhood immunizations should contact their child’s physician to get back on track. If your child does not have a physician, PCDOH will be resuming vaccination clinics three times a month. Appointments are required and clinics will be conducted following all the required safety protocols, including social and physical distancing, face coverings or masks, and heightened disinfecting routines. To schedule an appointment, call 845-808-1332. Clients will be instructed on the newest safety procedures, which will include calling from their car upon arrival. A member of the immunization team will greet them and take their temperature. A COVID health screening will be conducted and the client will be escorted to the interview area, since the waiting area has been closed. With these

new protocols in place, it is not too early to start thinking about any necessary vaccines that children may need for the upcoming school year.

For more information about childhood immunizations, visit www.putnamcountyny.com/health/immunization/.

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, provided directly and through collaboration, 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/coronavirus; or visit our social media sites @PutnamHealthNY on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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