



PUTNAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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www.putnamcountyny.gov/health

A PHAB-ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Public Health Advisory

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Putnam County Department of Health Reporting Spike in Influenza Incidence

The Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) has detected a sharp increase in incidence of influenza in the county in the most recent reporting week. Incidence jumped from 29 cases during the week ending 12.07.2024, to 71 in the week ending 12.14.2024. Sixty-two percent of cases were in persons 17 years old or younger. Incidence was highest in Brewster and Putnam Valley. Ninety two percent of cases were flu A.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) declared [influenza to be prevalent in New York State](#) for the 2024-2025 influenza season as of 12.18.2024. Healthcare providers can consult weekly reports published by [PCDOH](#) and [NYSDOH](#) for more detailed surveillance data and to stay current on this season's local and regional flu activity.

Healthcare providers can help control the spread of flu and other respiratory viruses:

- Differential diagnosis and diagnostics for patients presenting with respiratory illness should include influenza, COVID-19, RSV, and other respiratory viruses
- Counsel patients to reduce risk of transmission through established prevention methods
 - Covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing, social distancing, and use of face masks in public places are useful to reduce spread of all respiratory viruses
 - Patients should stay home whenever they don't feel well, not only when they don't feel well enough to go to work, school, or other activities outside the home
- Recommend and administer vaccines
 - Flu and COVID-19 vaccination should be offered to all patients 6 months and older (and RSV immunization for certain groups) who have not yet been vaccinated this season
- More information on influenza for healthcare providers can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact the PCDOH Communicable Disease Control Division at (845) 808-1390.