

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive



A. K. Vaidian, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Public Health Alert

DBCH Recommends Influenza Vaccination During COVID-19

September 10, 2020 3pm

Please Distribute to Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Planning, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Laboratories, Infection Control, and school and college health offices.

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) recommends Health Care Providers to offer **influenza vaccination to everyone six months of age and older without contraindications, especially those in high risk groups including young children, pregnant women, individuals with chronic health conditions, and those 65 years of age and older.**

The 2020-2021 Influenza season will be challenging with both SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses circulating. Prevention through vaccination will be key this year as we work together to maintain health care capacity and ensure resources are available to manage the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Providers are encouraged to:

- ▶ **Begin vaccinating patients during the month of September and October before the start of influenza activity** during routine health care visits and physicals. **Children** who require 2 doses should receive their first dose as soon as possible to allow the second dose (≥ 4 weeks later) to be received by the end of October.
- ▶ **Ensure all health care workers and staff** are advised to get a seasonal flu vaccine.
- ▶ **Document vaccine administration** for both children and adults into the NYS Immunization Information System (NYSIIS).
- ▶ **Offer influenza vaccine and vaccinate patients prior to hospital discharge.**

If you are unable to provide flu vaccine, refer the patient to a provider or pharmacy that can provide vaccination. Flu vaccination sites can be found at www.flu.gov.

Uninsured or underinsured children and adults can be referred to Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health for an influenza vaccination appointment at 845-486-3409.

Dutchess County Communicable Disease
(845) 486-3402 or (845) 431-6465 (after hours)

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health
85 Civic Center Plaza - Suite 106, Poughkeepsie NY 12601