



## PUTNAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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A PHAB-ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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# Public Health Advisory

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## Putnam County Department of Health Reporting Early Season Increase in Influenza Incidence

The Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) has detected increased incidence of influenza in the county in the most recent reporting weeks. Incidence jumped from 8 cases during the week ending 11.13.2021, to 23 in the week ending 11.20.2021, and 34 cases in the week ending 11.27.2021. Most cases are in persons in their late teens and early twenties. Ninety one percent of cases in the most recent week were flu A.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is also reporting increasing incidence statewide. 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 COVID-19:

- Counsel patients to reduce risk in the face of rising cases of COVID-19 and flu in our county
  - Advise patients that personal protection measures including covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing, social distancing, and use of face masks in public places are the same for COVID-19, flu, and other respiratory viruses that may be circulating.
  - Recommend and administer vaccines
    - Flu vaccine should be offered to all patients who have not yet been vaccinated this season
    - COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to all patients that have not yet been vaccinated or are due for a booster (adults 6 months or greater from initial mRNA vaccine series, or 2 months or greater for single Johnson and Johnson vaccine)
  - Remind patients to 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.
- Differential diagnosis and diagnostics for patients presenting with respiratory illness should include COVID-19 and influenza
- A detailed clinical algorithm for patients with acute respiratory illness symptoms can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/testing-guidance-for-clinicians.htm>
- 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 Nursing Division at (845) 808-1390.