

For Health Professionals

Health Alerts

Health Alert Advisory #120 - Flu Vaccine Restrictions Lifted / Vaccine Available - January 7, 2005

The Erie County Commissioner of Health, Dr. Anthony J. Billittier IV, has rescinded the health order regarding the restricted use of Influenza injectable vaccine in Erie County.

Following New York State Department of Health recommendations, Dr. Billittier has determined that the flu vaccine supplies are sufficient to allow for immunizing adults 50 years and older, household contacts and out of home caregivers of persons in high risk categories. This update took effect Monday January 3, 2005.

Under the new Erie County Health Department guidelines, the following groups are encouraged to receive the flu vaccination:

- All children aged 6-23 months;
- Adults aged 50 years and older;
- Persons aged 2-49 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- Children aged 2-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- Health-care workers involved in direct patient care;
- Household contacts and out of home care givers of children aged <6 months;
- Household contacts and out of home caregivers of persons aged ≥ 65 years; persons with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart or lung disease, or weakened immune systems because of illness or medication; and children aged <2 years); and

Unvaccinated individuals who fall into any of the above categories are encouraged to contact their doctor or health care provider to be vaccinated. The Erie County Department of Health has significant supply of vaccine that will be provided to doctors and other appropriate health care providers free of charge.

In addition, the Erie County Health Department is working with community partners to provide public flu vaccination clinics. Please call the Erie County Health Department Flu Hotline at 858-2929 for dates and locations of these clinics or to obtain free flu vaccine.