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## **Region's Hospitals/Public Health Leaders Launch Flu Vaccination Campaign** *Urge residents to get a flu vaccine before virus takes hold*

Hauppauge, NY (November 9, 2022) Flu vaccination remains the first defense against fighting this infection, which can be deadly. Public health experts believe that this year's flu season will be highly active in comparison to the low level of flu infection seen last season, especially as mask wearing and social distancing have eased. Complicating matters are the COVID-19 Omicron subvariants that are circulating. Hospital leaders and county health officials from the nine counties east and north of New York City today launched a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of getting a flu vaccine now. The campaign is sponsored by the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) (SHANYS) and the [New York State Association of County Health Officials](#) (NYSACHO). Its messages are reaching residents in Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Dutchess, Ulster, Suffolk, and Nassau counties.

"Getting your family vaccinated for flu and COVID-19 this season is especially critical given the simultaneous emergence of respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. While there is no vaccine for RSV, it can become even more dangerous when compounded with other viruses like flu and COVID especially for children. Getting your flu and COVID vaccinations can protect you from this compounding effect. It's also important to stay home when you're feeling sick and to seek care from your health care provider if symptoms persist or if you are at risk of severe respiratory illness," said Sarah Ravenhall, executive director of the New York State Association of County Health Officials

"The flu and COVID-19 are two distinct infections, but the symptoms can look similar. We hope residents will take the flu infection seriously and opt for vaccination to protect themselves and their families from this contagious disease," said Wendy Darwell, president/CEO of the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State. "It's also a good time to get the COVID-19 vaccine, if you have not already done so, or the booster if eligible. We really hope that parents will opt to get their children vaccinated, especially for COVID-19, because the vaccination rate for this population is very low."

Members of the public can visit the [flu vaccine campaign page](#) to learn about flu vaccination in their local communities and flu prevention tips. The Suburban Hospital Alliance's site also houses campaign materials for use by hospitals.

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### **[About the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#)**

*The Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State advocates on behalf of hospitals in the Hudson Valley and Long Island regions. It engages key lawmakers and regulatory decision-makers in Albany and Washington to ensure reasonable and rational health care policy prevails. The [Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council](#) represents the not-for-*



profit and public hospitals on Long Island. The [Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals in the Hudson Valley region.

### **About the New York State Association of County Health Officials**

Representing the 58 local health departments in New York State, NYSACHO supports, advocates for, and empowers local health departments in their work to promote health and wellness and prevent disease, disability, and injury. To locate and learn more about services provided by the local health department in your county of residence, visit our [website](#).

### **About the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC)**



The [Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island. It works in conjunction with the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NSHC serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals on Long Island.

### **About the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet)**



The [Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association](#) represents the not-for-profit and public hospitals in the Hudson Valley region. It works in conjunction with the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) to advance legislative and regulatory priorities. NorMet serves as the local and collective voice of hospitals in the Hudson Valley.