

Contact: Janine Logan, Senior Director, Communications, 631-334-8321 – jlogan@sha-nys.org

Region’s Hospitals/Public Health Leaders Launch Flu Vaccination Campaign

Urge residents to get a flu vaccine to pre-empt fall season “twindemic”

For Immediate Release

Hauppauge, NY (October 13, 2020) Flu vaccination remains the first defense against a possible “twindemic” that could hit our region this fall and winter. The threat of the seasonal flu virus and COVID-19 virus hitting at once is a real possibility say medical providers and public health experts. Hospital leaders and county health officials from the nine counties east and north of New York City recently launched a campaign to raise awareness about this possibility and 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.

“We’re entering flu season at a time when COVID-19 activity is on the rise, making it more important than ever to develop and follow a wellness plan. We strongly encourage everyone to talk with their health care provider now and put together a plan that gives them the best chance to stay healthy through the fall and winter,” said Sarah Ravenhall, executive director of NYSACHO. “Your provider will help determine the best courses of action and will identify strategies that are proven to help prevent the flu and COVID-19. Now is the best time to act.”

“We saw how stressed our hospitals were this past spring when COVID-19 hit its peak. We want to avoid a similar situation, which could be compounded by the flu virus, as we move into the colder months,” said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of SHANYS. “No one has suffered from the flu and COVID simultaneously and, from a clinical perspective, we are not sure how the two diseases would manifest themselves in a patient. If we can remove flu from the equation, all the better.”

Members of the public can visit SHANYS’ [flu vaccine campaign page](#) to learn more about flu vaccination in their local communities and flu prevention tips.

###

[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](#).