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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **“Tame the Triple Threat” Say Suburban NY Hospitals and Local Health Departments**

*Officials Urge Vaccination Against Flu, COVID-19, and RSV*

(Hauppauge, NY...December 20, 2023)

Suburban hospitals and local health departments on Long Island and throughout the Hudson Valley are urging New Yorkers to “tame the triple threat” of [influenza](#), [COVID 19](#), and respiratory syncytial virus [RSV](#) with vaccination.

[Tame the Triple Threat](#)—a public health awareness campaign by the [Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State](#) (SHANYS) and the [New York State Association of County Health Officials](#) (NYSACHO)— could not be more timely. Flu was [declared prevalent](#) in NYS on December 6, 2023. COVID-19 and flu rates are [steadily rising](#) in the Mid-Hudson and Long Island regions. [As of November 29](#), there were more RSV cases than COVID and flu cases across the state. Rising rates across the board coupled with colder weather and more time spent indoors are ideal conditions for mutating viruses to target healthy New Yorkers.

The *Triple Threat* campaign urges vaccination if eligible, as it greatly reduces the chance of contending with these three heavyweight viruses. Vaccines are available at hospitals, pharmacies, local health departments, clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, physician offices, and other locations in our regions. But it’s always wise to call ahead and check on supply.

“Getting your family vaccinated for flu, COVID-19, and RSV this season is critical, especially for children. 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, COVID-19, and RSV are three distinct infections, but the symptoms can look similar. We hope residents will take precaution against these upper respiratory viruses and opt for vaccination to protect themselves and their families from these contagious diseases,” said Wendy Darwell, president/CEO of the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State.



Members of the public can visit e [this resource page](#) to learn more vaccinations in their local communities and disease prevention tips. The Suburban Hospital Alliance's site also houses campaign materials for use by hospitals. Eligibility for each vaccine varies. Check the [CDC guidance](#).

For more information about locating a flu or COVID 19 vaccine near you, visit [vaccines.gov](#) or contact your local [hospital](#) or [health department](#).

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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.*

**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.*