



Flu Update: 12/16/09 Long Island Hospital Industry

This flu update is brought to you by the 24 not-for-profit and public hospitals on Long Island to keep you aware of developments at the hospital level.

- The state is now making H1N1 flu vaccine available to the general public. The Department of Health reports weekly vaccine delivery that is now nearly double the state's previous allocation. Those in priority groups identified by the Centers for Disease Control who have not yet received vaccination are urged to do so.
- State and local county health departments report a decrease in the percentage of H1N1 flu cases in recent weeks. However, for this time of year all agree that there is more flu activity than normal. As the H1N1 flu is unpredictable and not as well understood as seasonal flu, a third wave of infection could appear at any time.
- Vaccination continues to be the best defense against rapid spread of the disease. Now that supplies are greater, public health officials urge as many people as possible to receive vaccine.
- Long Island's hospitals continue to be at the ready for any change in flu activity. Efforts are coordinated among hospitals, community physicians, and county health departments. Media and the public were reassured of this at a Flu Activity Briefing last month.
- The public should continue to practice good illness prevention techniques such as frequent hand washing and covered coughs and to remain home from work or school, if symptoms arise.
- To obtain vaccination call: the Public Relations Office at your local hospital, your primary care physician or your county health department: Suffolk 631-787-2200; Nassau 1-888-684-4271.