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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET THE FLU VACCINE

Why play Russian roulette with the flu, especially when the influenza vaccine is readily available?

The Westchester County Health Department can help. It has about 400 doses of flu vaccine available free for distribution to hospitals, health centers and private medical group practices. As a condition of accepting the free vaccine from the county Health Department, patients must not be charged for their vaccine, though they may be charged an administration fee.

The flu season has been a mild one so far, but cases are increasing and typically do not peak until February or March. Some people can still get the flu as late as May. That means there's still time to benefit from the flu vaccine.

There was a record supply of influenza vaccine this year. Nationally, more than 103 million doses have been distributed so far this season. In Westchester, the County Health Department has already distributed about 4,200 doses.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.

To inquire about obtaining this free flu vaccine for your patients, call the Health Department's Division of Community Health at (914) 813-5227.

For more information on influenza, go to the Westchester County Department of Health's website at www.westchestergov.com/health.

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