

# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

### OCHD Clinic Anticipates Delay in Flu Vaccine Shipment

*Health Officials Urge Early Vaccination Wherever Vaccine is Available*

The Oneida County Health Department has been notified of a possible delay of 4-8 weeks in the shipment of flu vaccine, Director of Health Phyllis Ellis said today.

*“According to the distributor, we do not anticipate a shortage of flu vaccine this season, but rather a delay in receiving our supply,”* Ellis said. She added, *“In the meantime, we urge people to get the flu vaccine as soon as possible through their primary health care provider or any of the many retail outlets where vaccine is available.”*

The Oneida County Health Department had planned to make the flu vaccine available during their regularly scheduled immunization clinics held in Utica on Mondays and Thursdays from 1-3:30 pm and in Rome on Tuesdays from 1-3 pm. In addition, adult flu clinics were planned for Fridays from 1-3 pm during the months of October and November.

*“At the present time our clinics have limited quantities of pediatric vaccine and FluMist, the nasal spray vaccine intended for persons 2-49 years of age with no underlying medical conditions. But it appears we may have to start our adult flu shots a little later than originally anticipated,”* Ellis said.

The seasonal flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6-months of age and older except those who have a severe allergic reaction to eggs. Although the vaccine will not prevent influenza in all cases, it reduces your risk of developing the flu and usually lessens the severity and duration of the illness, should it occur.

Health officials recommend frequent and proper hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes with the bend of your arm - never your hands and staying home from work or school if you experience flu like illness as a means of stopping the spread of influenza.

For more information on the flu contact the Oneida County Health Department at 798-5748 or visit our web site at [www.ocgov.net/oneida/health](http://www.ocgov.net/oneida/health).