July 30, 2021 | 3:15 pm

COVID-19 Updates

Unvaccinated individuals are at greater risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines.

GET THE FACTS >

AUGUST 19, 2020 | Albany, NY

Governor Cuomo Directs Health Department to Issue Letter to County Health Departments to Ensure Localities Have Plans to Perform Flu & COVID-19 Tests Simultaneously

CORONAVIRUS (/KI HEALTH)RC(NK PUBLIC SAFETY (/KEYWORDS/PUBLIC-SAFETY)

Governor Cuomo Directs Health Department to Issue Letter to County Health Departments to Ensure Localities Have Plans to Perform Flu & COVID-19 Tests Simultaneously

In anticipation of flu season, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today directed the Department of Health to send a letter (https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/LHD.August_19.2020.pdf) to county health departments to ensure localities have plans in place to perform flu and COVID-19 tests simultaneously.

The full text of the letter is available below:

Dear Commissioner/Public Health Director:

The New York State Department of Health greatly appreciates the work of our Local Health Department (LHD) partners to date in our efforts to contain and prevent community transmission of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Department is also grateful for and relies upon your commitment to protecting the public health going forward.

As we enter now into an influenza season during an unprecedented pandemic, Governor Cuomo has directed my Department to ensure local communities have adequate testing capacity for both seasonal influenza and COVID-19 so that we can make sure limited testing, lab, and treatment resources are being utilized most effectively.

I am requesting detail about what plans for this fall your LHD has developed to provide residents of your county with sufficient availability of, access to, and information about both flu and COVID-19 tests. Your response will help inform the state's ongoing efforts to build a sufficient testing system to protect all New Yorkers.

If there are any issues or barriers your LHD can foresee that will make it more difficult to maintain sufficient testing capacity within your county, please note them specifically, and my team will work with yours to get them resolved.

Finally, in addition to adequate testing capacity, developing and implementing a robust influenza vaccination plan will help ensure we can continue to respond efficiently to the ongoing challenges of this pandemic, so please also provide information on specific steps your LHD is taking to increase vaccination rates in your communities.

Please share this information on plans for flu and COVID-19 testing and plans for flu vaccination, including any anticipated barriers, by 3 pm on Wednesday, August 26th to prevention@health.ny.gov (mailto:prevention@health.ny.gov).

Thank you for all that you do and I look forward to our continued partnership in combating this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Zucker, M.D. J.D.

Contact the Governor's Press Office

Contact us by phone:

Albany: (518) 474 - 8418
New York City: (212) 681 - 4640

Contact us by email:

Press.Office@exec.ny.gov

Translations

Bengali Translation
বাংলা অনুবাদ (https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/08.19.20.rel_.FLU_B

Chinese Translation
中文翻譯 (https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/08.19.20.rel_.FLU_C

Haitian-Creole Translation
Tradiksyon kreyòl ayisyen (https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/08.19.20.rel_.FLU_Hait

Korean Translation
한국어 번역
(https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/08.19.20.rel_.FLU_K

Russian Translation
Перевод на русский язык
(https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/08.19.20.rel_.FLU_R

Spanish Translation
Traducción al español
(https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/08.19.20.rel_.FLU_S