



Board of County Commissioners

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunterdon County Health Department Reports Surge in Respiratory Illnesses

Commissioner Shaun C. Van Doren, the Board's Health Department liaison announced during December 20th meeting that Hunterdon County is experiencing a surge in respiratory illnesses. "Based on current testing reports from medical care providers, the predominant respiratory virus circulating in the community is Influenza, surpassing the number of COVID cases."

Commissioner Van Doren added, "In addition to rising cases of illness, outbreaks in congregate living facilities and schools are also on the rise. There is also an uptick in calls to the 911 dispatch center and visits to the Emergency Department as well."

Hunterdon County's Health Department Director Karen DeMarco noted, "It is expected that cases of COVID, influenza, and RSV will jump after the holidays and New Year's Eve celebrations."

Ms. DeMarco added, "The best protection against severe cases of COVID and Influenza is to stay up to date on your vaccinations."

The Hunterdon County Health Department is continuing to provide providing COVID vaccine clinics for ages 6 months and above at the Health Department offices, and the Department is partnering with agencies to provide community-based pop-up clinics routinely.

In addition to traditional clinics, the Health Department is partnering with other organizations to provide community-based clinics throughout the County. The Health Department also provides vaccine to residents who are unable to leave their homes in the Mobile Homebound Vaccine program.

The CDC recommends everyone eligible should get vaccinated and boosted. According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

If you have any questions about preventing the spread of illness, vaccines, or testing, please contact the Health Department at 908-788-1351.