



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LET'S GET IMMUNIZED NY STATEMENT ON LATEST
FLU VACCINE STUDY FOR CHILDREN**

Following the recent release of a new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, showing that vaccination against the flu prevents severe illness in children, members of the Let's Get Immunized New York campaign released the following statements:

"This new study by the CDC shows that flu vaccines prevent severe illness in children even when the vaccine does not match the circulating virus. This important finding underscores the value of flu vaccines in protecting children. These viruses change rapidly so the benefit of vaccines to provide protection beyond the primary strain is enormous and should reinforce public confidence in vaccine science and safety generally," said James Mumford, MD, President of the NYS Academy of Family Physicians.

New York State Association of County Health Officials President Dr. Indu Gupta said: "We strongly encourage parents to have their children vaccinated against both the flu and Covid-19. Studies have clearly demonstrated that flu and Covid vaccines are highly effective in preventing

serious illness and death. The vaccines are free and safe. Please have your eligible children vaccinated as soon as possible and talk to your healthcare provider if you have any questions."

"Flu is a serious threat to children. A record 199 children died from the flu during the 2019-20 flu season. Despite constant messaging from health providers and public health officials that all children under 18 should be vaccinated against the flu, CDC reports that vaccination of children during the 2020-21 flu season was only between 50.8% and 68% nationally. We urge parents to get their children vaccinated against the flu. This study shows that vaccination is the prudent choice," added Mumford.

Flu vaccination rates are down this year across the U.S.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone over the age of 6 months be vaccinated against the flu.

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