



MEMORANDUM

To: All New York State Office of Mental Health Operated Psychiatric Centers and Article 31 Licensed “Free Standing” Psychiatric Hospitals

From: Lloyd I. Sederer, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Re: Attached Health Alert—2013-14 Flu Season

Date: December 2, 2013

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) is following the lead of the New York State Department of Health (DOH) 2013-14 Influenza Season Public Health Campaign.

The goal of this Campaign is to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with influenza for patients, families and healthcare personnel. Influenza vaccination is the most effective means to prevent influenza.

Section I of the attached Health Alert describes new regulation requirements for DOH entities that are licensed under Public Health Law **including dually licensed Article 28/31 providers**.

Section II of the Alert provides information about new requirements that will soon be codified in OMH emergency regulations. These requirements pertain to **OMH-operated psychiatric centers (including all programs and services operated by, or under the auspices of such psychiatric centers) and “free standing” Article 31 psychiatric hospitals**.

Section III of the Alert underscores the importance of implementing aggressive prevention behaviors as well as the importance of pursuing flu immunization for personnel. Section III applies to all providers licensed or operated by the OMH.

Thank you for your attention to this very important public health effort. Please direct any questions to: Catherine.Benham@omh.ny.gov.

cc: John Tauriello
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Julie Rodak
Susan Watson

