



Dutchess County Department of Health Public Health Advisory

Michael C. Caldwell, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health



William R. Steinhaus
County Executive

Zostavax Vaccine Now Available

Date: May 21, 2009 1:00PM

- **The Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) announces to the Medical Community, that Zostavax® vaccine is now available at DCDOH Adult Immunization Clinics.**

The Dutchess County Department of Health announces that Zostavax® vaccine is available at Department of Health Adult Immunization Clinics. This is a vaccine licensed by Merck & Co., Inc. for individuals aged 60 years and over for the prevention of zoster (shingles).

Zoster is a localized, generally painful cutaneous eruption that occurs most frequently among older adults and immunocompromised persons. It is caused by reactivation of latent Varicella zoster virus (VZV, i.e., Varicella) decades after initial VZV infection is established.

In the clinical trials conducted, the Zostavax vaccine reduced the risk for developing zoster by 51.3% and was 66.5% efficacious for preventing postherpetic neuralgia (PHN).

Physicians can review the Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), including the vaccine contraindications and precautions by accessing the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5705.pdf>

Eligible persons must bring a **Patient Specific Order** signed by a New York State licensed physician. The cost of the vaccine is \$175.00 per dose and is payable by cash or check. A receipt will be given for insurance reimbursement. For Medicare recipients, the vaccine is covered under Medicare Part D. Persons must check with their commercial plans to ascertain coverage.

Dutchess County Department of Health Adult Immunization Clinic is held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. No appointment is needed. The clinic is located at the Health Department office at 387 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, NY.

For more information, please check the Dutchess County website at www.dutchessny.gov or call (845) 486-3409.

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