

Establishing A Policy To Provide Onsite Seasonal Flu Vaccinations To County Employees

Referred to: The Public Health and Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner, and Roberts), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, and Maloney)

Legislator Peter M. Loughan and Legislator Lopez offer the following:

WHEREAS, the flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses; and

WHEREAS, the flu can be a mild to severe illness, and at times, lead to death; and

WHEREAS, the flu is unpredictable and can vary in its severity from year to year; and

WHEREAS, the flu costs the United States approximately \$10.4 billion in direct costs for hospitalizations and outpatient visits for adults; and

WHEREAS, every year the flu significantly affects employers and businesses because their employees are absent due to illness from the flu; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends that everyone 6 months and older receive a yearly flu vaccine as the first and foremost important step in protection against the flu; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature deemed that it is in the County's best interest to minimize employee absenteeism where and when possible; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature determined that one way in which to decrease employee absenteeism is to provide onsite seasonal flu vaccinations to its employees; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature believes that within its authority it has the duty to make good health practices as convenient as possible for the County workforce; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that is the policy of Ulster County to provide onsite seasonal flu vaccinations to County employees every flu season at the County Office Building, as well as other locations determined to be appropriate and beneficial by the County Executive,

and moves its adoption.

