



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, MS
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: 4/23/2026
TO: All Article 28, 36, and 40 Healthcare and Residential Facilities and Agencies
FROM: Office of the Commissioner

Health Advisory:

**NYS Department of Health Commissioner Declares
Influenza No Longer Prevalent in the State**

Please distribute immediately to: Administration, Medical Director, Infection Prevention, Nursing Administration, Risk Management

Influenza cases and hospitalizations recently have been at low levels compared to peak activity in the week ending December 20, 2025.

Therefore, New York State Department of Health Commissioner James McDonald, MD, MPH, declares that influenza is no longer prevalent for the 2025-26 influenza season, as of the date of this announcement. Accordingly, at this time, section 2.59 of the New York State Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR § 2.59) no longer requires all healthcare and residential facilities and agencies regulated pursuant to Article 28, 36, or 40 of the Public Health Law, to ensure that all personnel, as defined in the regulation, not vaccinated against influenza for the current influenza season wear a surgical or procedure mask while in areas where patients or residents may be present.

This declaration shall remain in effect until the Commissioner declares influenza to be prevalent in New York State.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the regulation and other resources are available at <http://health.ny.gov/FluMaskReg>.

For more information please direct questions to FluMaskReg@health.ny.gov