

11/1/18-WILL THERE BE A DROP IN ENROLLMENTS? THAT'S THE BIG QUESTION AS OPEN ENROLLMENT ON THE STATE'S INSURANCE EXCHANGE GETS UNDERWAY TODAY. THE ONLINE MARKETPLACE PROVIDES HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. BUT PRESIDENT TRUMP REPEALED ENFORCEMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL MANDATE LAST YEAR, REMOVING THE FINE FOR NOT HAVING COVERAGE. LAST YEAR OVER 280-THOUSAND NEW YORKERS OPTED TO PAY THE PENALTY INSTEAD OF PAYING FOR INSURANCE.

11/5/18-FLU SEASON IS HERE, AND YOU NEED TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM STATE HEALTH OFFICIALS, WHO ARE ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO GET A FLU VACCINE. THAT'S ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY THAT ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO THE INFECTION. NEW FIGURES FROM THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL SHOW THAT ONEIDA COUNTY HAD THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA FLU INFECTION RATE IN THE STATE LAST YEAR, WHILE HERKIMER COUNTY WAS CLOSE BEHIND AT NUMBER THREE.

11/8/18-A DISEASE THAT MIMICS THE SYMPTOMS OF POLIO IS INFECTING MORE KIDS IN NEW YORK. OFFICIALS WITH THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAY THEY'VE NOW IDENTIFIED NINE CASES OF ACUTE FLACCID MYELITIS ACROSS NEW YORK, UP FROM FOUR BACK IN SEPTEMBER. THE CONDITION ATTACKS THE NERVES OF THE SPINAL CORD AND LEAVES THE VICTIM WITH POTENTIALLY CRIPPLED ARMS AND LEGS. SO FAR INVESTIGATORS HAVEN'T CONCLUSIVELY IDENTIFIED WHAT CAUSES THE DISEASE.

11/9/18-THE DAYS OF VAPING IN NEW YORK ARE COMING TO A CLOSE. NEW REGULATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WOULD BAN THE SALE OF FLAVORED E-CIGARETTE LIQUIDS STARTING NEXT YEAR. OFFICIALS SAY THE LAW IS NEEDED TO HELP KEEP KIDS AWAY FROM E-CIGARETTES, WHICH HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR EVEN AS THE NUMBER OF SMOKERS IN NEW YORK HAS FALLEN. THE LIQUIDS COME IN THOUSANDS OF FLAVORS THAT FREQUENTLY MIMIC CANDIES AND DESSERTS. ADVOCATES SAY THAT MAKES VAPING TOO ATTRACTIVE TO CHILDREN

11/12/18-YOUR VAPE JUICE IS SAFE, FOR NOW. LAST WEEK THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PUBLISHED NEW REGULATIONS THAT WOULD HAVE BANNED FLAVORED E-CIGARETTE LIQUIDS. BUT JUST 24 HOURS LATER THE NEW RULES WERE WITHDRAWN WHEN ADVOCATES POINTED OUT THEY WERE PROBABLY ILLEGAL. EXPERTS SAY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTED WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM THE LEGISLATURE, WHERE A BILL BANNING E-LIQUIDS HAS LANGUISHED FOR YEARS. WITHOUT THAT APPROVAL THE PROPOSED RULES WOULDNT' STAND LEGAL SCRUTINY.

11/29/18-THE DISCOVERY OF A RABID BAT IN THE TOWN OF GERMAN FLATTS HAS LEAD TO WARNINGS FROM HERKIMER COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS. THEY'RE REMINDING RESIDENTS TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL PETS AND FARM

ANIMALS ARE VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES. INFECTED ANIMALS CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS WHEN THEY TRY TO ENTER HOMES TO ESCAPE FROM COLD WINTER WEATHER. OFFICIALS ARE CAUTIONING RESIDENTS TO BE CAREFUL AROUND ANY ANIMALS THAT ARE ACTING STRANGELY OR AGGRESSIVELY, AND TO CALL 9-1-1 WHEN ANY WILD ANIMAL ATTACKS A HUMAN OR A PET.