



# IMMUNIZATION COMMUNITY

## Shot From The Heart Provider Newsletter

2018-19 Flu Season Edition

Volume 2, Issue 1 • September 2018

The 2017-18 flu season was exceedingly difficult, in part because of low vaccine effectiveness.

Some of the United States data compiled to date is:

- There were 178 pediatric deaths during the 2017-18 flu season compared to 93 in the 2015-16 season and 110 in the 2016-17 season
- The CDC estimates that overall vaccine effectiveness for influenza A and B during the 2017-18 season was approximately 36%
- Most influenza infections (69%) were caused by A viruses (H3N2 and H1N1). Vaccine effectiveness was 25% for H3N2 and 67% for H1N1. Vaccine effectiveness was 42% against influenza B viruses.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6706a2.htm>

### News, Updates and Links

**The Immunization schedules for the 2018-19 season are now available for review and printing.**

- [ACIP Recommendations](#)
- [CDC Vaccine Printable Schedule 19 and Older](#) CDC Vaccine Schedules App: [Iphone](#) , [Android](#)
- [CDC Vaccine Printable Schedule 18 and Under](#)
- Shingles vaccination; All the [details](#) you need for 2018-19
- The World Health Organization has recommended changes to the composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2018-19 northern hemisphere influenza season.  
[Composition Link](#) [Q+A](#)



### Top Tips:

- **Educate your staff on your practice immunization plan and engage them in the implementation. Include information for them on how to [dispel myths](#) with patients.**
- **Make immunizations part of your daily workflow and pre-visit planning.**
- **Develop alternate means of promoting immunizations**, including: sending reminder text messages, featuring information on your patient portal, conducting drop-in clinics and email blasts. If you don't provide immunizations in your practice make available a list of immunization clinics in your area.
- **Encourage all your staff and healthcare workers to get their flu shot** with you setting the example.
  - ✓ Post a picture in a public area to show your patients or residents how important it is to you.

\*\*\*If you have ideas or links to include in future editions, please contact Russ Cooney at 401-528-3226 or via email at [rcooney@healthcentricadvisors.org](mailto:rcooney@healthcentricadvisors.org)

## Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC)

In New England, we have a growing **Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC)**. The Council includes volunteer members who share their healthcare experiences and provide feedback to the New England QIN-QIO on ways to help improve the quality and safety of healthcare. Our Council can help you by reviewing educational materials, looking at current processes or giving you feedback on programs you would like to get started at your facility. Contact us for further information-*contact information below*.

We are always looking for new members and would welcome your patients' participation. We all know someone who would make a good advisor, someone who has had an impactful healthcare experience or is a caregiver of someone who has had a similar experience. They may be outspoken but are eager to create a positive change.

Speak to your **PFAC Representative** if you would like more information or to get your patients involved.

### Contact Your PFAC Representative for More Information

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Connecticut</b><br>Linda Krikawa<br><a href="mailto:Linda.Krikawa@area-N.hcqis.org">Linda.Krikawa@area-N.hcqis.org</a>               | <b>Maine</b><br>Amanda Gagnon<br><a href="mailto:agagnon@healthcentricadvisors.org">agagnon@healthcentricadvisors.org</a>      | <b>Massachusetts</b><br>Thushara James<br><a href="mailto:tjames@healthcentricadvisors.org">tjames@healthcentricadvisors.org</a> |
| <b>New Hampshire</b><br>Rachel Eichenbaum<br><a href="mailto:Rachel.Eichenbaum@area-N.hcqis.org">Rachel.Eichenbaum@area-N.hcqis.org</a> | <b>Rhode Island</b><br>Russ Cooney<br><a href="mailto:rcooney@healthcentricadvisors.org">rcooney@healthcentricadvisors.org</a> | <b>Vermont</b><br>Gail Colgan<br><a href="mailto:Gail.Colgan@area-N.hcqis.org">Gail.Colgan@area-N.hcqis.org</a>                  |

### Visit our website for more resources

Visit the New England QIN-QIO website for a complete collection of resources at:  
[www.healthcarefornewengland.org/initiatives/immu/immu-resources](http://www.healthcarefornewengland.org/initiatives/immu/immu-resources)

#### Resources include:

- Immunization schedules for adults and children
- ACIP Recommendations
- Antiviral Drugs
- Free Print Resources
- Immunizations Billing
- Standing Orders
- Vaccine Guidelines and Tools
- Vaccine Information Statements
- Storage and Handling of Vaccines
- *And more!*

2018-2019 Influenza Season

[2017-18 Recommended Immunization Schedules for Adults - CDC](#)

[2017-18 Recommended Immunization Schedules for Children - CDC](#)

[ACIP Vaccine Recommendations and Guidelines - CDC](#)

[ACIP- General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization](#)

[Adult Immunizations Toolkit For Home Health Providers/Adult Immunizations Toolkit For Home Health Providers \(PDF\)](#)

[Antiviral Drugs - CDC](#)

[CDC Free Print Resources](#)

[Clinical Description & Lab Diagnosis of Influenza - CDC](#)

[Immunization Billing \(PDF\)](#)

[Implementing Standing Orders - Immunization Action Coalition \(PDF\)](#)

[It's Influenza Season Again 2017-2018 Flu Season Article](#)

[Medicare Coding and Billing for Vaccinations](#)