Some of the Regional data compiled through March 9, 2019 is:

- The predominant strain in New England this flu season is Influenza A(H3)
- There have been 68 flu related pediatric deaths in New England this flu season
- Widespread Influenza activity continues in five of the six New England states (Vermont/local activity)
- There are over 12,000 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in New England

Source: [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm)

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

- ACIP Recommendations
- 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](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/weekly/weekly.htm) 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.
- Subscribe to the [Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm). This is a good source for national, regional and local flu data from the CDC (Email signup is halfway down Page on the left)
- 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

This material was prepared by the New England Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (NE QIN-QIO), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for New England, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. CMSRIF122019031718
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

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<tr>
<th>Connecticut</th>
<th>Maine</th>
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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

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!