

# MAINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE FEBRUARY 2017



Maine Center for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
An Office of the  
Department of Health and Human Services

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

## Maine School Immunization Requirements Rule

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education revised the Maine School Immunization Requirements rule. The changes further align Maine's immunization rules with current national recommendations and serve to better protect the health of all Maine people. The following two changes were made:

- Effective immediately, the exclusion period for varicella disease (chicken pox) has increased from 16 days to **21 days**. This means that if a case of chicken pox is confirmed in your school and exclusions are recommended, any child who has not provided proof of immunization or history of disease will be unable to attend school or any school related activity for 21 days after symptom onset of the LAST case.
- Effective for the 2017-2018 school year, all students entering, advancing, or transferring into seventh grade will need to receive one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine before attendance is allowed. This Tdap requirement is for 7th grade students only, students in grades 8-12 are not required, but it is highly recommended.

You can find a link to the rule (Chapter 126 / 261) here:

<http://www.maine.gov/doe/rule/changes/index.html>

You can also read the communication from the Department of Education about this rule change here:

<https://mainedoews.net/2017/01/05/revisions-to-chapter-126-261-regulation/>

## Adolescent Vaccination Messaging for Practice Hold Lines

CDC has created messages that can be used for your practice's hold lines. These messages, or messages like them, can be heard by parents who call the office and are placed on hold. This turns their wait-time into a time where they can be educated about adolescent vaccination and HPV vaccine.

Please visit the following web link for sample messaging:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/for-hcp/adolescent-messaging.html>

## Travel Vaccines

With upcoming travel plans for Spring break, you may have patients with questions regarding vaccines they will need if traveling out of the country.



CDC Health Information for International Travel (commonly called the Yellow Book) is published every two years as a reference to those who advise international travelers about health risks. The Yellow Book is written primarily for health professionals, but is a useful resource for anyone interested in healthy international travel.

For more information, visit:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>

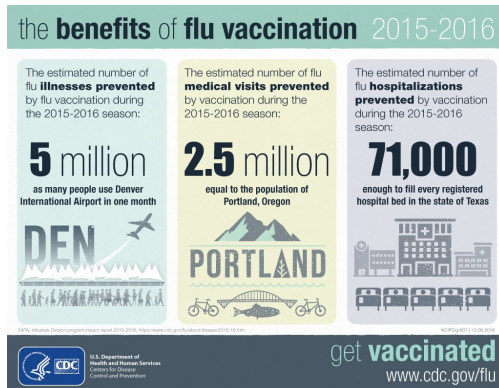
## Annual Regional Trainings

The Maine Immunization Program will be hosting five regional trainings for 2017. Dates and locations TBD.

### Influenza is spreading and serious; It's not too late to vaccinate

Influenza activity in Maine is now widespread with laboratory confirmed influenza reported in all sixteen counties.

Influenza A/H1N1, influenza A/H3, influenza B/Victoria, and influenza B/Yamagata have been confirmed in Maine indicating all strains are circulating. Influenza vaccination is still strongly encouraged and is widely available, especially to protect those persons at risk of severe disease. The vaccine appears to be a good match to all strains this year, and it is not too late to get vaccinated. Influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone six months of age and older. If you do not provide influenza vaccination in your clinic, please recommend vaccination to your patients and refer them to a clinic or pharmacy that provides vaccines or to the [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) to locate sites near their workplaces or homes that offer influenza vaccination services.



[HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#)

[National Adult and Influenza Immunization](#)

[Summit](#) website

[The Summit Buzz](#): Newsletter of the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit

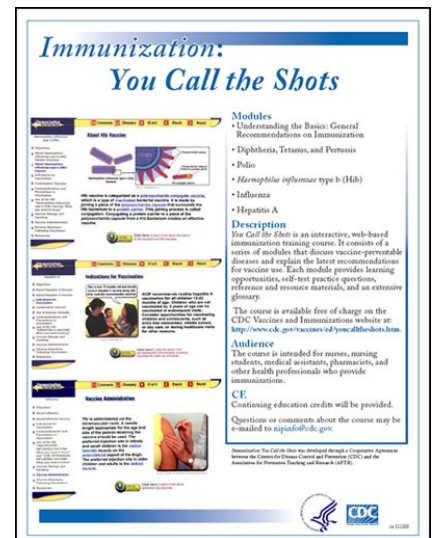
[Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System—IVATS](#): a resource for healthcare settings looking to purchase influenza vaccine.



The "You Call the Shots" training modules have been updated for 2017 and are now available online.

*You Call the Shots* is an interactive, web-based immunization training course. It consists of a series of modules that discuss vaccine preventable diseases and explain the latest recommendations for vaccine use.

Each module provides learning opportunities, self-test practice questions, reference and resource materials, and an extensive glossary.



Following is a list of resources related to influenza disease and vaccination for healthcare professionals and the public:

[CDC's Seasonal Flu web section](#)

[CDC's FluView web section](#)

[CDC's Free Resources related to influenza](#)

IAC's [handouts related to influenza](#)

To access the training modules, please visit: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/youcalltheshots.html)

For more information on the Continuing Education Requirement, please refer to the letter at the following web link:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/providers/communications/2017/Clarification-on-Continuing-Education-Requirement.pdf>

**If you have any questions,  
please contact the Maine Immunization Program at:  
(207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775  
[www.ImmunizeME.org](http://www.ImmunizeME.org)**

