



# Vaccine update

## Publication of PHE reports on the 2018/19 flu season

Surveillance of flu and other respiratory viruses in the UK is undertaken throughout the year by PHE using a variety of data sources, and is published annually.

**The following official statistics for the 2018/19 flu season were published on 30 May:**

- Surveillance of influenza and other respiratory viruses in the United Kingdom: winter season 2018/19 ([weblink 10](#))
- Seasonal flu vaccine uptake in GP patients in England: winter season 2018/19 ([weblink 9](#))
- Seasonal flu vaccine uptake in healthcare workers in England: winter season 2018/19 ([weblink 11](#))
- Seasonal flu uptake in children of primary school age: winter season 2018/19 ([weblink 12](#))

In the 2018/19, low to moderate levels of flu activity were observed in the community with circulation of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 followed by influenza A(H3N2) in the latter part of the season.

Flu transmission resulted in high impact on secondary care in terms of hospitalisations and ICU admissions. The impact of A(H1N1)pdm09 was predominantly seen in the younger age groups (15-44 and 45-64 years) in both GP consultations and hospital and ICU/HDU admissions.

Influenza vaccine uptake in 2018/19 in England for the 65+ year olds and at-risk groups was slightly lower than that seen in 2017/18.

Flu vaccine uptake for health care workers increased to 70.3% compared to 68.7% in 2017/18. This is the highest level achieved in the programme and one of the best in Europe.

Vaccine uptake in children was at the highest level achieved in the programme, both for school-aged children and two- and three-year olds offered flu vaccine in general practice.

Please also read the latest [Vaccine update: issue 295 June 2019](#) for more detailed information from PHE

- National Immunisation Network meeting May 2019
- save the dates for NIN 2020
- thinking of going away this summer?
- identifying patients eligible for the shingles vaccine in GP IT systems
- issuing varicella-zoster immunoglobulin (VZIG)
- vaccination checks for holidaymakers
- new tool to support the recording of vaccines given abroad!
- publication of PHE reports on the 2018/19 flu season ([page 7](#))
- resources for children's flu vaccination programme ([page 8 & 9](#))
- have you improved your flu uptake? Call for submissions please
- vaccine supply for the routine programme
- vaccine supply for the non-routine programme