Michigan Department of Community Health
MDCH
Rick Snyder, Governor
James K. Haveman, Director

Why get a flu vaccine?

Ask Niko Yaksich of Michigan.

Even healthy people can get the flu and it can be very serious. This year and every year, get vaccinated against the flu. It could save a life.

Niko's story

In 2003, I lost my sister Alana to the flu. She was a perfectly healthy 5-year-old girl, and in the blink of an eye she was gone. The day that she passed away she had woken up with a fever and was feeling a little under the weather, but by the end of the day she was feeling much better and was running around with me. It was as though she had never been sick and was back to normal. She was not back to normal though. As I slept that night, my sister was being rushed to the hospital with a fever of 106 degrees. The doctors said that there was nothing they could do and that the flu had caused swelling to her brain. By the following night I had lost my sister and my family's life would be changed forever.

www.michigan.gov/immunize

Concept adapted with permission from Texas Children's Hospital.