

# Why get a flu vaccine?

Ask the Yaksich family of Michigan.



**This year and every year, make sure you and your loved ones are vaccinated against the flu. It could save a life.**

## Alana's story

On February 2, 2003, 5½-year-old Alana Yaksich spent the day with her parents and brothers watching movies, eating sundaes and playing. Even with a low-grade fever from a recent sore throat, Alana enjoyed the afternoon feeling healthy and surrounded by her family. That evening, Alana was rushed to the emergency room when her fever increased to 106 degrees. Within 24 hours of arriving at the local hospital, Alana died of flu-related complications that caused swelling and injury to her brain.

*Flu is a serious disease that can be prevented through vaccination. Annually an average of 20,000 young children are hospitalized because of the flu.*

*In a recent mild flu season, 120 children in the United States died of the flu, of which half were previously healthy, just like Alana.*