## Survey Shows Widespread Skepticism of Flu Shot Despite Doctor Recommendations

More than half of parents think their children can get the flu from the vaccine, a third say it doesn't work

### Orlando Health

Produced by: MediaSource www.mediasourcetv.com	To download broadcast-quality video and other multimedia elements: <a href="http://bit.ly/20QioNf">http://bit.ly/20QioNf</a>
Package Length: 1:41	Content provided by: Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children

## **NEWS PACKAGE**

SUGGESTED TEASE	DOCTORS ARE PREPARING FOR ANOTHER SEVERE FLU SEASON AND RECOMMEND GETTING YOUR FLU SHOT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BUT WIDESPREAD MYTHS ABOUT THE SHOT MAY BE PREVENTING PARENTS FROM HAVING THEIR CHILDREN VACCINATED. THE SHOCKING RESULTS OF A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY, COMING UP.
ANCHOR LEAD	BESIDES MAKING YOUR CHILD MISERABLE FOR A WEEK, THE FLU CAN HAVE VERY SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS.  LAST YEAR'S FLU SEASON WAS ONE OF THE MOST SEVERE ON RECORD, WHEN ONE-HUNDRED-EIGHTY CHILDREN IN THE U.S. DIED AFTER CONTRACTING THE VIRUS.¹  HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SAY THE BEST PREVENTION METHOD IS SIMPLE – GET THE FLU SHOT.  BUT A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY FINDS A SURPRISING NUMBER OF PARENTS ARE STILL SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FLU SHOT, DESPITE THE CONSENSUS OF THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS.
(PACKAGE START) CG: Courtesy: Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children :00 - :03 Shots of Ehren watching kids on	(Nats - Sound) :02  EHREN MCMICHAEL (AIR-ren mick-MY-kul) KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN ILLNESS HITS HER
playground  CG: Ehren McMichael  Mom of three kids	HOUSEHOLD. :03  "My husband and I just assume if one kid gets it, it's do the best you can and then hope for the best because more than likely someone else in the house will come

Producers and Reporters: To download scripts, video and photos go to:

Shots of Ehren's and kids in exam room

CG: Hannah McMichael Gets the flu shot

CG: Brayden McMichael Gets the flu shot

Shots of Brayden getting flu shot

CG: Jean Moorjani, MD Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children

Shot of Hannah getting flu shot **Graphic:** 

Flu Shot Survey

34% - Thing the flu shot doesn't work

53% - Say the shot can cause the flu

Dr. Moorjani (CG'd earlier)

Shots of Dr. Moorjani talking to colleagues

Graphic:

Flu Shot Survey 28% - Believe the shot can cause autism

Dr. Moorjani (CG'd earlier)

Shots of nurse preparing vaccines

Closeup of vaccine being drawn into syringe

Dr. Moorjani (CG'd earlier)

Shots of Ehren watching kids on playground

down with it as well." :08

FOR HER, TAKING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO GET FLU SHOTS IS A NO-BRAINER. :03

"It helps protect you from the flu, and so when you go to school, your friends don't catch it." :06

"It's better to get a shot than get sick." :04

BUT A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY BY ORLANDO HEALTH FINDS THAT A SHOCKING NUMBER OF PARENTS ARE STILL HESITANT TO VACCINATE THEIR CHILDREN. :06

"Doctors recommend the flu vaccine because we know based on science and research and facts that it is the best way to protect yourself and your family against the flu.":10

THE SURVEY FOUND THAT A THIRD OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN THINK THE VACCINE DOESN'T WORK, AND MORE THAN HALF BELIEVE THEIR CHILD CAN ACTUALLY CONTRACT THE FLU FROM THE SHOT. :11

"The parts of the virus that are used are completely dead, so you cannot get the flu from the flu shot.":07

THE SURVEY ALSO FOUND THAT IT'S NOT JUST THE EFFECTIVENESS THAT PARENTS ARE QUESTIONING, BUT THE SAFETY.

IN FACT, TWENTY-EIGHT PERCENT BELIEVE THE FLU SHOT CAN CAUSE AUTISM. :08

"One thing that we do know after lots of research is that the flu vaccine is safe." :07

EACH YEAR, THE FLU SHOT PROTECTS AGAINST THE MOST LIKELY STRAINS TO CIRCULATE, BUT EVEN IF YOU COME DOWN WITH A DIFFERENT STRAIN, ANTIBODIES FROM THE FLU SHOT STILL OFFER SOME PROTECTION. :08

"You'll be sick, or your child will be sick, but they're not going to be nearly as sick as if they had never received the vaccine." :06

AS FOR EHREN... (Nats - "Careful, Hannah.")

# (PACKAGE END) ------ANCHOR TAG

SHE FEELS BETTER GOING INTO FLU SEASON KNOWING SHE'S DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP HER FAMILY HEALTHY.

AT ORLANDO HEALTH ARNOLD PALMER HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING.:09

EXPERTS RECOMMEND GETTING THE FLU SHOT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE<sup>2</sup>. BEFORE FLU SEASON IS IN FULL SWING.

THEY SAY GETTING VACCINATED NOT ONLY PROTECTS THOSE WHO GET THE SHOT, BUT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WHO AREN'T ABLE TO BE VACCINATED. SUCH AS BABIES UNDER SIX MONTHS OLD.

FOR PARENTS TAKING THEIR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHT TO GET THE SHOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY SHOULD RECEIVE TWO DOSES SPACED ONE MONTH APART TO HELP BUILD AN INITIAL RESISTANCE.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Share it! Suggested tweet:

A new national survey by <a>@OrlandoHealth</a> finds a shocking number of parents are skeptical about getting their children flu shots despite doctor recommendations. Pediatricians at @APHospital are working to dispel common myths: http://bit.ly/20QioNf

Suggested post:

Pediatricians say the flu shot is a simple and effective way to protect your children from the flu virus. However, a new national survey by Orlando Health finds there is still widespread skepticism of the shot's safety and effectiveness. Pediatricians at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children dispel some common myths and urge parents to get their children vaccinated: http://bit.ly/20QioNf

#### **EXTRA BITES**

CG: Jean Moorjani, MD Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children

Moorjani says it's not too late to get your flu shot: "It's definitely not too late to get a flu shot. Sometimes we see flu activity in the early spring, so definitely get your flu shot now. It's not too late."

CG: Jean Moorjani, MD Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children Moorjani says if you couldn't get the shot earlier, get it now: "It's recommended that you get the flu shot as soon as you can before the start of flu season so your body is well-protected against the flu. But if for some reason you weren't able to get to your doctor's office, it's almost never too late to get a flu shot because sometimes we will see flu activity well into March or April, so it's not too late to get the flu vaccine."

Moorjani says you shouldn't think it's too late to get the shot: "If, for some reason, you weren't able to get the flu shot early in the flu season, we don't want you to think, 'Oh, it's too late.' It's never too late. You can still get the flu shot at any time."

Moorjani says the shot offers protection from different strains: "When your body receives the flu vaccine, your body starts to think, 'Okay, I've got to start making antibodies to help protect against the flu virus.' So even if it's not a perfect match, getting the flu vaccine will still give your body some protection."

Moorjani says doctors' recommendations are based on facts: "All of our recommendations are going to be based on science. It's not going to be based on, 'Well, I heard this one time,' or, 'Well, maybe this might happen.' So you know that you're going to get trusted information that's based on science and facts."

Moorjani says getting the shot helps protect those who can't: 'By protecting yourself, you're also helping protect other people in your community who might not be able to receive the vaccine."

Moorjani addresses some of the myths about the flu vaccine: "We know that the flu vaccine is safe. You cannot get the flu from the flu vaccine. You cannot get autism from the flu vaccine. It is not a conspiracy for doctors to recommend the flu vaccine."

Ehren says it's best to get information from a pediatrician: "There are lots of people out there that believe some of the misinformation that's given, and I feel like the pediatricians are the best people to get the information from."

CG: Ehren McMichael Mom of three kids

Ehren says the flu shot is a simple step to protect her children:: "All of the local pharmacies offer flu shots, the pediatrician offers flu shots. It's just, as a parent, it's just another level of protection that we can make sure that the kids are given so that they aren't missing days of school and they aren't ill."

CG: Ehren McMichael Mom of three kids

Ehren says getting the shot keeps other kids healthy as well: "Nobody wants their children to be ill or to infect other kids in the schools because typically if you get something like that you're contagious before you know you have it, and so we wouldn't want to put anyone else at risk for that either."

#### References

<sup>1</sup>Summary of the 2017-2018 Influenza Season. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, August 31, 2018. Online: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2017-2018.htm">https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2017-2018.htm</a>

<sup>2</sup>Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2018–2019. **American Academy of Pediatrics, September 2018.** Online: http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2018/08/30/peds.2018-2367

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