

## **CDC Flu Video Documentary Transcript**

MOTHER, FAMILY 1

It just hit so suddenly. It just took me by surprise.

MOTHER, FAMILY 2

We didn't think, "Oh no. There's a chance that she could get really sick and die."

FATHER, FAMILY 2

We literally watched her dying. You know, her body was dying inside.

MOTHER, FAMILY 3

How does this happen? It's not supposed to. Here we had this beautiful, perfect healthy baby boy. And all of a sudden, within a day he's gone.

DR. JEANNE SANTOLI, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION (CDC)

Influenza is a very serious disease. About a hundred children die every year from influenza, and that's a relatively small number, but every death from influenza is a tragedy, especially when we have a vaccine to prevent influenza.

MOTHER, FAMILY 3

I'd already called the pediatrician beforehand about – he wasn't taking his bottle and I was afraid he was gonna get dehydrated. And right then the phone rang. It was the pediatrician's office. I told them that we were gonna go ahead and take Ian to the emergency room, just because his coloring didn't look right, and right at that moment, Ian stopped breathing.

MOTHER, FAMILY 1

I looked at Martin, 'cause he's old enough to make his own decisions and to tell me how he's feeling. And I looked at Martin, I said, "Martin – what do you wanna do? Do you wanna go to the three o'clock appointment or do you wanna go to the emergency room?" And he says, "No, Mom, I think I need to go to the emergency room." ...When I think of Martin, it always brings a smile to my face because he was such a good kid.

MOTHER, FAMILY 2

We called our doctor and said, "We need her to be looked at. I think she may be dehydrated and I want you guys to look at her." But she never made it to the doctor that morning. The minute I walked in the room I thought, "Oh, what's wrong?" But right when I touched her, you know, I knew.

FATHER, FAMILY 2

Really, kind of the whole day was just kind of like a long period of adjusting to what the truth was, which was that she wasn't gonna survive that day.

MOTHER, FAMILY 4

She had the symptoms of a cold. It seemed – you know, just a runny nose and, you know, your typical cold. But she couldn't shake it. And she had four days of fever, and I think that might have been our first indicator that something was a little more serious than a cold.

DR. JEANNE SANTOLI, CDC

The symptoms of influenza are – some of them are similar to the symptoms of the common cold, like a runny nose or stuffy nose, a cough, or congestion. But with influenza, you'll also see people feeling feverish, very tired, having muscle aches and headaches, things we don't usually see with the common cold. And while anyone can have influenza, it's more serious for certain groups of people and can lead to complications that are much more serious than the common cold

MOTHER, FAMILY 3

Everybody just kept saying that he had the flu and they would send him home and tell us to treat the symptoms and follow-up in 48 hours, but he never made it 48 hours.

MOTHER, FAMILY 2

Kids don't die, you know? Mommies take care of kids and we'll keep you safe.

MOTHER, FAMILY 1

It hit his system so quickly that there was no way that any doctor could have reacted.

MOTHER, FAMILY 4

Both of her lungs were full of pneumonia, so they immediately admitted her to the children's ICU. They had all sorts of procedures they were doing on her. They hooked her up to an I.V. because she wasn't getting enough fluids, they gave her oxygen because her breathing was very shallow, sort of like panting.

MOTHER, FAMILY 2

The flu has changed our lives. It took – I mean, it took one of my children. The flu can – can kill your healthy children.

MOTHER, FAMILY 3

We started reading more about influenza and we were just shocked about the statistics, and you just don't hear about it. You don't – you don't hear that healthy children die from it. We didn't know what we were dealing with. We had no idea that the flu could kill healthy children as fast as it does.

DR. JEANNE SANTOLI, CDC

Some of the complications from influenza include pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration. In addition, people who have medical conditions such as asthma or diabetes could actually have a worsening of those conditions when they become ill with influenza.

MOTHER, FAMILY 3

What Ian got the flu he died. My other two boys who got vaccinated never had a symptom.

MOTHER, FAMILY 1

You think your child is healthy. He was a healthy child. A \$10, \$24 vaccination could have possibly saved his life.

MOTHER, FAMILY 2

I could have got Emily a flu shot, and I should have got all the kids a flu shot.

DR. JEANNE SANTOLI, CDC

Influenza is a contagious infection that's caused by the influenza virus, and it affects the nose and the throat and the lungs. Children less than 2, even if they're healthy, are at high risk of being hospitalized due to influenza, and for children between the ages of two and four, when they get influenza, they're more likely than older children to have to go see a doctor or go to an emergency room because of influenza. In fact, every year in the U.S. about 20,000 children under the age of five are hospitalized due to influenza.

MOTHER, FAMILY 4

I think Elizabeth dodged a bullet. We took her into the E.R. We could have had a tragedy on our hands.

DR. JEANNE SANTOLI, CDC

And while the vaccine isn't 100 percent effective, it's a very good way to prevent influenza. In fact, it's the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against influenza is to get vaccinated.

MOTHER, FAMILY 3

Please get it. I – I don't want you sitting here having to talk about the loss of your child.