



# Alana's Foundation <sup>TM</sup>

## ALANA N. YAKSICH

### MICHIGAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL FLU VACCINATION CHALLENGE NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

November 12, 2018

#### FLU CHALLENGE - FINAL PUSH

As we get closer to the holidays, we begin to look forward to school breaks and the end of the Flu vaccination challenge, set to conclude December 7. This date was chosen as it coincides with **National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW)** - a good opportunity to remind everyone 6 months and older that it's not too late to get a flu vaccine. We encourage you to check out the CDC **NIVW material** to help promote the last few weeks of the challenge.



**I have no doubt we can still capture more responses from students, faculty, staff, alumni and fan communities.**



Lets keep the momentum going straight through the end for a banner finish in your quest to bring home the coveted Alana Yaksich Memorial Traveling Trophy!

#### FLU IN THE NEWS

The 2018-2019 flu season is well under way and has recorded deaths both pediatric and adult. Since there is no way to know how this flu season will play out, be informed with the latest flu in the news activity. The following articles are relevant to the cause:

- **Unvaccinated child dies from the flu in Florida**
- **New York Child dies of the flu**
- **First North Carolina (adult) flu death of 2018-19 season**
- **Doctors' son died 10 days before flu shot appointment. Now they want save your child**
- **4 ways the flu turns deadly**
- **Here are some reason why people don't get the flu shot and why they're wrong**

#### FLU ACTIVITY IN THE U.S.



Be sure to stay up-to-date with the latest 2018-19 flu season activity & surveillance. The **CDC posts** weekly influenza surveillance (FluView), an interactive FluView and current US flu activity map. This may be helpful in your communication to your students and community via email, social media, or face-to-face interactions.



# Alana's Foundation™

## 2017-2018 ADULT & CHILDREN FLU VACCINATION COVERAGE DATA

The CDC 2017-18 estimates of Influenza Vaccination Coverage among for **ADULTS** and **CHILDREN** in the United States were reported this fall (for details, click preceding links for complete data by category).

**GENERAL SUMMARY:** The 2017-18 flu season was a high severity season with high levels of clinic and emergency department visits, high hospitalization rates, and elevated widespread flu activity across the US for an extended period. **Vaccination coverage among adults and children remains low and slightly decreased compared to 2016-17 season.**

**ADULTS:** Flu vaccination coverage was 37.1%, a decrease of 6.2 percentage points from the previous flu season, their lowest levels than seven prior flu seasons.

- The decrease occurred in 37 states; in 13 states and DC the coverage did not change from the last season.
- Coverage decreased for all racial/ethnic groups except for American Indian/Alaska Natives.
- 78% of vaccinations were received by the end of November, similar to 2016-17. Coverage by end of November 2017 was 3.0 percentage points lower than November 2016; by end of January 2018, coverage was 5.5 percentage points lower than January 2017.

**CHILDREN:** 6 mo. through 17 years, vaccination coverage was 57.9%, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points

- Among children 6 months to 4 years, coverage decreased 2.2 percentage points
- There was no change in coverage for children 5-17 years
- As observed each flu season, coverage for children 6 months - 17 years decreased with increasing age.
- There was large between-state variability, ranging from 43.2% (Wyoming) to 76.2% (Rhode Island).

### CONCLUSIONS:

- Annual flu vaccination remains an effective way to prevent flu illness. During the 2017-18 flu season, 183 lab-confirmed pediatric deaths were reported; for children eligible for vaccination and for whom vaccination status is known, 74% were not vaccinated.
- Common reasons parents give for not having their child receive a flu vaccination include: the child is unlikely to get the flu or get very sick from the flu, the child is not in a high risk group, and concern about side effects from the vaccine.

## CHALLENGE RESOURCES

- [Challenge Toolkit](#)
- [Alana and Niko - Personal Story Posters\\*](#)
- [Why get a flu vaccine](#)
- [Vaccine Grant Application](#)
- [Challenge Poster\\*](#)
- [Alana's Story \(video\)](#)
- [Alana's Foundation brochure](#)

\*Be sure to post these materials in your health center and around campus: residence halls (if applicable), cafeterias, and other buildings/locations where students congregate.

## CHALLENGE STANDINGS - WEEK OF November 12, 2018

The current rankings are on the following page.

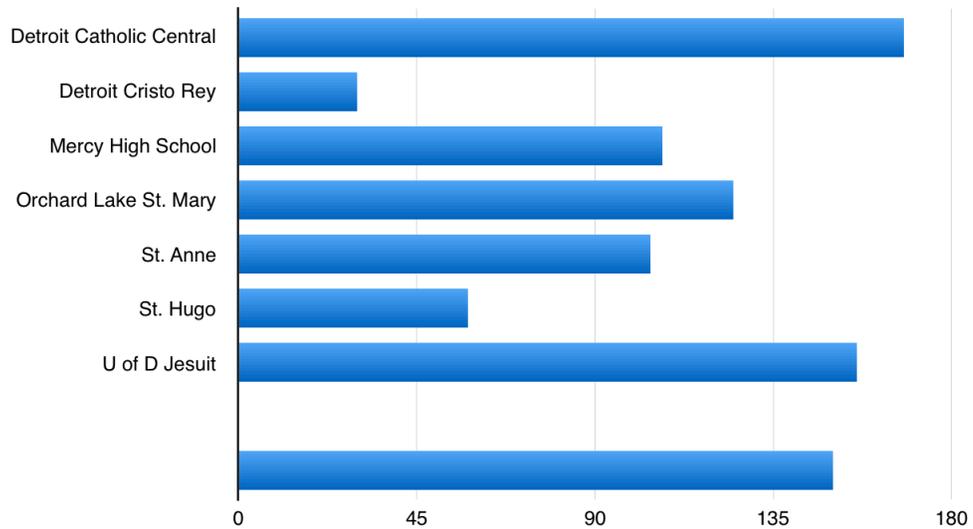
Total number of surveys remains constant with no new additional survey completions received since last October. However, there is still plenty of time to make a run for first!

**PROMOTE THE CHALLENGE** to your students, staff, faculty, alumni and fans (family/friends) via listserves, newsletters, etc. Ask them to take the **survey** to help your school win! The **challenge ends December 7**, so lets work together to **engage your community** about the importance of flu vaccinations, especially right before the holidays.



**2018-2019  
Alana Yaksich Michigan Catholic School Flu Vaccination Challenge  
STANDINGS as of 11/12/18**

Alana Yaksich  
Michigan Catholic School Flu Vaccination Challenge  
2018-19



RANK	SCHOOL
1	Catholic Central
2	University of Detroit Jesuit HS and Academy
6	Orchard Lake St. Mary
3	Mercy High School
5	St. Anne
4	St. Hugo of the Hills
6	Detroit Cristo Rey

*Alana Yaksich Michigan Catholic School Flu Vaccination Challenge  
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