



## ALANA N. YAKSICH

# MICHIGAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL FLU VACCINATION CHALLENGE NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

November 14, 2017

### 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 8. 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. As it looks like the US may be in for a rough 2017-2018 flu season, 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.**



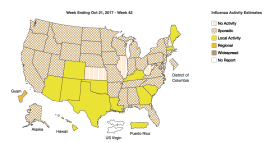
Lets keep the momentum going straight through the end for a banner finish in your quest to bring home the coveted Alana Yaksich Memorial Traveling Trophy!

### FLU IN THE NEWS

The 2017-2018 flu season is well under way and may prove to be challenging. With the CDC bracing for a potentially miserable fall and winter due in part to the Southern Hemisphere, the following articles are relevant to the cause:

- **5 reasons why you should absolutely get a flu shot this year**
- **People are already dying from the flu**
- **CDC reports 1st pediatric flu death for the 2017-2018 flu season**
- **What Australia's bad flu season might mean for us**
- **18 yr. old law student, becomes the latest to die from Australia's worst ever flu season**

### FLU ACTIVITY IN THE U.S.



Be sure to stay up-to-date with the latest 2017-18 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™

## 2016-2017 FLU VACCINATION COVERAGE DATA

In late September, the [CDC released the 2016-2017 Flu vaccination coverage for the U.S.](#) (click preceding link for complete data).

**Key messages:** Flu vaccination among the general population and specific groups, including pregnant women and healthcare personnel, remains relatively stable. However, vaccination coverage remains low among some groups despite ample vaccine supply and new vaccination options in recent years.

**General population:** Flu vaccination among the US population remained stable from last year

- Flu vaccination among children remained steady (59%) despite the recommendation not to use the nasal flu vaccine.
- Similar to the 2015-16 season, **children 13-17 years had the lowest flu vaccination coverage (49%)** while children 6-23 months had the highest (76%).
- Last season, flu vaccination increased among adults overall. Uptake increased by nearly 2 percentage points among adults 50 years of age and older compared 2015-16.

**Pregnant women:** Flu vaccination among pregnant women remains unchanged since last year.

- However, we've maintained the gains made among this population since the 2009 influenza pandemic.
- We continue to see that pregnant women whose healthcare providers recommend and offer vaccination have the highest vaccination coverage.

**Healthcare professionals:** Flu vaccination among healthcare professionals remained high overall for the last 3 seasons. However, fewer than 70% of assistants and aides were vaccinated, while coverage was over 90% for physicians, PAs, nurses, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists.

- All hospital health care personnel have at least 90% vaccination coverage.
- When employers had on-site vaccination clinics for more than one day, 4 out of 5 health care personnel took advantage of the opportunity to get vaccinated, even in the absence of a vaccination requirement.

## 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 13, 2017

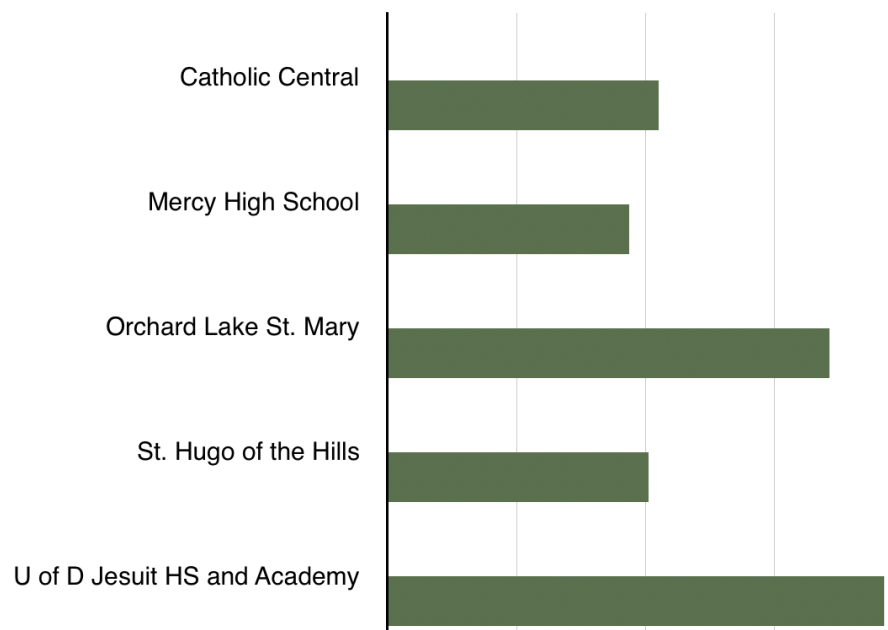
The current rankings are on the following page.

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. Ask them to take the [survey](#) to help your school win! The **challenge ends December 8**, so let's work together to engage your community about the importance of flu vaccinations, especially right before the holidays.



**2017-2018**  
**Alana Yaksich Michigan Catholic School Flu Vaccination Challenge**  
**STANDINGS as of 11/13/17**



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

*Alana Yaksich Michigan Catholic School Flu Vaccination Challenge*  
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