

Fold over and tape shut...

**YES!**  
It was  
worth a  
shot!

To:

To:

How many of life's important moments have you missed?

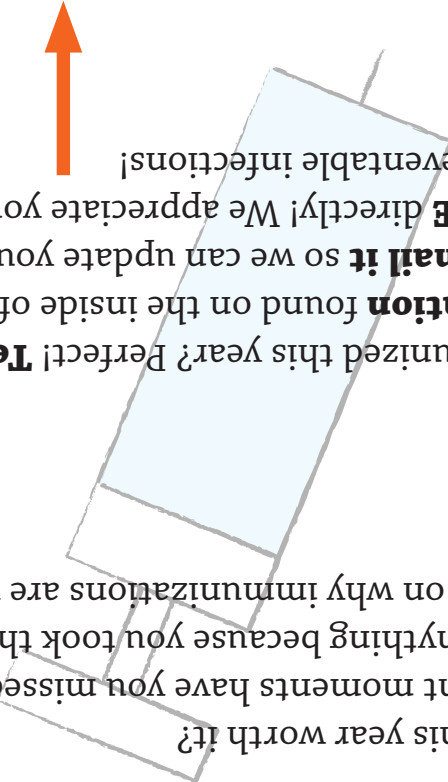
Your best friend's 70th birthday party.

The homecoming game for your alma mater.

Your granddaughter's dance recital.

Is it worth it?

Is **not** getting immunized this year worth it?  
How many of life's important moments have you missed because of the flu?  
Now imagine not missing anything because you took the initiative to get immunized!  
Open for more information on why immunizations are worth it!  
Have you already been immunized this year? Perfect! **Tear off** the postage-paid card below, **fill out the information** found on the inside of the card, **fold over and tape shut** (DO NOT USE STAPLES) and **mail it** so we can update your immunization records! You can also **CALL OUR OFFICE** directly! We appreciate your commitment to actively protecting yourself from preventable infections!



# Immunizations: Myths & Facts

There are many misconceptions about immunizations and their effectiveness. The truth is that timely vaccinations protect people against serious diseases. Below we've exposed three common myths that often stop individuals from being immunized. We encourage you to ask your doctor about any questions you have and get immunized **TODAY!**

**MYTH:** "I don't have the money for these shots."

**FACT:** Medicare pays 100% of the cost for influenza, pneumococcal pneumonia, and hepatitis B shots for Medicare beneficiaries. If you're covered by Medicare, then these immunizations will cost you nothing.

**MYTH:** "I don't have to get immunized every year because the protection lasts from previous vaccinations."

**FACT:** The types of viruses circulating changes with each year which is why a new vaccine, customized for the current viruses, is created every year. It's essential to receive a flu shot yearly because previous vaccinations will not protect you.

**MYTH:** "My friend took the flu shot one year and still got the flu! It doesn't work!"

**FACT:** The flu vaccine is not 100% effective in preventing every virus strain calculated each flu season, however people who have taken a flu shot will usually get a milder case of the flu than those who have not. The risk of hospitalization and complications that cause death are greatly reduced as well.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth date:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Physician's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Office/Clinic's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I've already had vaccination shots for:** (please check all that apply)

**Pneumococcal Pneumonia**

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Location:

Doctor's office

Pharmacy (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Store (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

State Health Department

**Hepatitis B**

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Location:

Doctor's office

Pharmacy (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Store (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

State Health Department

**Influenza**

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Location:

Doctor's office

Pharmacy (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Store (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

State Health Department

**Other:** (please specify)

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Location:

Doctor's office

Pharmacy (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Store (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

State Health Department

## Sore throat. Runny nose. Muscle aches.

All symptoms of the flu. All symptoms which can be prevented by following through on timely immunizations. Each year 50,000 Americans die from vaccine-preventable influenza and pneumonia and in Missouri, influenza and pneumonia are associated with approximately 1,500 - 3,000 deaths per year. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, most of these deaths occur in seniors 65 years of age and older who do not take advantage of the **FREE** immunizations that Medicare offers.

Remember that Medicare provides coverage to all beneficiaries:

- Over the age of 50 for the influenza vaccine.
- Over the age of 65 for the pneumococcal vaccine.
- All intermediate to high risk individuals for the hepatitis B vaccine.

### What can you do?

1) Take a moment and read the facts listed on the left that expose common myths about vaccinations.

2) Call your doctor and schedule an appointment to get vaccinated. If you've already been vaccinated, mail the attached pre-paid immunization reply card to your physician's office which will help update your immunization record.

Don't miss out on life because of not getting immunized! Call your doctor **TODAY!**

