Influenza (flu) is a serious disease of the nose, throat, and lungs, and it can lead to pneumonia. Each year about 200,000 people in the U.S. are hospitalized and about 36,000 people die because of the flu. Most who die are 65 years and older. But small children less than 2 years old are as likely as those over 65 to have to go to the hospital because of the flu.

**FACTS**

“The flu isn’t a serious disease.”

“The flu shot can cause the flu.”

“The flu shot does not work.”

“The side effects are worse than the flu.”

“Only older people need a flu vaccine.”

“You must get the flu vaccine before December.”

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For more information, ask your healthcare provider or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)  
Website www.cdc.gov/flu