



**FAMILIES**  

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**FIGHTING FLU**

# Sepsis in the community; A Father's Story

*Jeb Teichman, MD FAAP  
BOD Families Fighting Flu*

*February 27, 2025*

# Disclosures

- ❖ I am a paid advisor for Sanofi Vaccines for their Meningococcal Vaccine
- ❖ No other planners or presenter have disclosed any relevant financial relationships with any commercial entities whose products, research or services may be discussed in this activity.
- ❖ No commercial funding has been accepted for this activity.

# Agenda

- **A Father's story**
- **Sepsis in the Community and ISF**
- **Families Fighting Flu, who we are and what we do**
- **Q&A**





# A Father's Story

**Brent Teichman**  
1990-2019



# Brent's Story

- Brent was a healthy 29 years old
- He had been sick for 5 days before notifying family, too late to start antivirals
- He was referred to urgent care on day 7 for difficulty breathing
- He died in his sleep 4 hours after returning from urgent care



# Influenza Doesn't Discriminate

- Brent was not vaccinated
- Getting vaccinated had been on Brent's to-do list, but life got busy



# Brent's Vital Signs

**Temp:** 37.9

**Pulse:** 157

**Resp:** 28

**Sat:** 85%

**Labs:**

WBC 14,000 Gran 87%



# Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome

## SIRS criteria

- Body temperature over 38 or under 36 degrees Celsius
- Heart rate greater than 90 bpm
- Respiratory rate greater than 20 breaths per minute
- Partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> less than 32 mmHg



# Sepsis in the Community



# Sepsis in the Community

The International Sepsis Forum  
Held a meeting in April 2024 on  
Sepsis in the Community.

Their report is about to be  
published



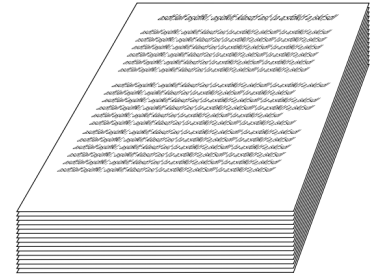
# Sepsis in the Community

## Preventing, Identifying, and Managing Sepsis in the Community: 2 Research and Clinical Priorities

### Contributors

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# Sepsis in the Community

- Sepsis originates in the community in over 90% of cases resulting in hospitalization
- Outcomes are most modifiable at this stage.
  - During the period from symptom onset to hospitalization treatability declines
- There are 50 million sepsis hospitalizations and 11 million sepsis related deaths globally each year
- Awareness of signs and symptoms of sepsis among both lay persons and clinicians lags behind other time sensitive medical emergencies (eg. stroke and heart attack)

# Sepsis in the Community

## The publication outlined initiatives into 4 domains

- Mitigation
  - Reduction of population based sepsis risk
- Monitoring
  - Screening for sepsis in high risk patients
- Measurement
  - Identification of sepsis in the community
- Management
  - Treatment of sepsis in the community

# Sepsis in the Community

## Mitigation

- On an individual level the primary mode of prevention of sepsis is vaccination and optimization of chronic conditions
- On community level (and individual level) we must address social factors (poverty, race or racism education) that place people at risk
- Education regarding definition of sepsis signs and symptoms and importance of timely evaluation
  - Including primary care physicians and community health workers
  - Management of chronic health conditions that predispose to sepsis, provision of vaccination, and preventive health measures

# Sepsis in the Community

## Monitoring

- Screening for sepsis in high risk groups
- Delays in treatment negatively impact outcomes
  - Optimum approach to screening remains unknown
- Proactive symptom monitoring of high risk patients by telephone or self assessment
- Wearable devices

# Sepsis in the Community

## Measurement

- Sepsis is defined as life threatening organ dysfunction due to a dysregulated immune response
- To diagnose sepsis clinicians must identify infection identify organ dysfunction and identify that the two are related
- Laboratory testing and physiologic monitoring to identify and grade organ dysfunction is not readily available



# Sepsis in the Community

## Management

- Treatment of sepsis has historically been hospital based but may be managed outside of the hospital in some scenarios
- Shift to at home care in conditions like Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)
- Acute Hospital Care At Home (AHCaH)
  - Sepsis is among the 5 most common diagnosis of patients using AHCaH
  - Results low mortality
  - Limitations are access to care

# Locklin's Law



# Locklin's Law

- Lochlin DeSantis was a 5 year old boy who died in 2020 from sepsis precipitated by influenza. His parents lobbied the Maryland legislature to write a law to require hospitals and urgent care centers to have sepsis training and protocols in place to recognize and treat patients with sepsis
- The governor of Maryland signed Locklin's Law in April 2024



<https://www.loveforlochlin.com/>

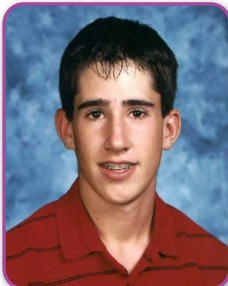
# **Families Fighting Flu**

## **Who We Are and What We Do**





**We put  
a face  
on the  
FLU!**



**We aim to prevent  
more stories like ours.**

# The Power of Emotional Storytelling



***Healthcare decisions can be emotional for most people!***



Stories are 22x more memorable than statistics!

We share stories to help prevent others from experiencing what our families have.

People *RELATE* to stories and it can change their intentions to vaccinate!

# Families Fighting Flu - Our Stories

## A Mother's Story



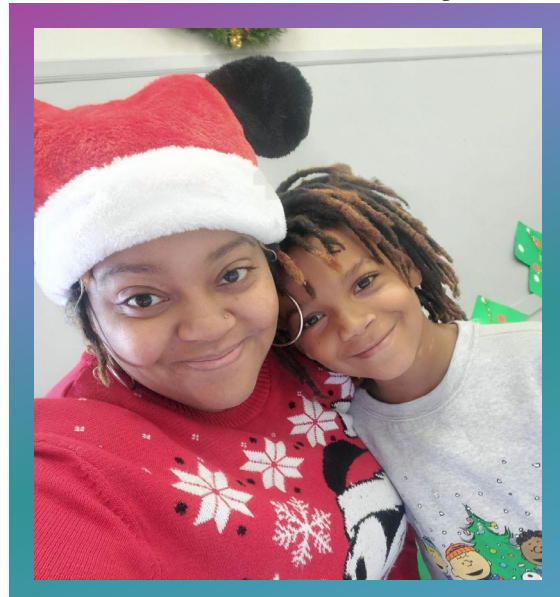
**Amanda Kanowitz**  
1999-2004

## A Father's Story



**Brent Teichman**  
1990-2019

## A Survivor's Story



**Kaden Stevenson**  
Flu Survivor December 2022

# Sharing FFF Family Stories

## Educating with Videos



[Madison Romero's Story](#)

[Madison Romero's Video](#)



[Latasha 'Tash' Hayne's Story](#)

[Tash Hayne's Video](#)



# The Power Of Storytelling



In the fall of 2014, Jessica Richman got her FLU vaccine. Her daughter, Cayden, had a cold at the time, so her vaccination had to be rescheduled.

**Cayden Smith  
was only  
3 years old**

# The Power Of Storytelling

## Vaccinate. Test. Treat.

When to be on the lookout for respiratory infections:

	FLU	COVID-19	STREP THROAT	RSV
OCT	•	<i>Timing of Covid-19 surges vary</i>		•
NOV	•			•
DEC	•		•	•
JAN	•		•	•
FEB	•		•	•
MAR	•		•	•
APR	•		•	•
MAY	•			•
JUN				•
JUL				
AUG				
SEP				

## Kaden Stevenson

Kaden Stevenson was an active and healthy seven-year-old who enjoyed sports and spending time with his friends. Just before Christmas 2022, Kaden came down with what his mother assumed was a common cold or possibly a stomach bug.



Kaden's symptoms progressed over a couple of days, resulting in his local hospital airlifting him to a pediatric intensive care unit about 2 hours away.

As a complication of the flu, Kaden experienced toxic shock from bacteria that entered his bloodstream. Kaden's legs were amputated as a result of this flu complication.

Kaden's mother now urges everyone to get vaccinated in order to protect themselves and their loved ones from the flu.

[Kaden Stevenson's Story](#)

[Kaden Stevenson Video](#)

[Kaden Stevenson Postcard](#)

[www.familiesfightingflu.org](http://www.familiesfightingflu.org)



G2022C

# The Power Of Storytelling



**In 2004**  
there was no flu  
recommendation for  
children over age 2



**Advocating  
Makes A  
Difference**

# How We Reach People

- **Educating and advocating**
- **Sharing our family stories**
  - Events; social, earned, and digital media; educational resources; webinars
  - Participation at advocacy days
- **Providing educational materials and resources**
- **Collaborating with trusted messengers and partners**



*We reach people  
“where they are” at  
local, regional, state,  
and national levels*

# We Tailor Our Resources for your Audience

## Educating with Print & Digital Resources

### Vaccines Save Lives



Kaden Stevenson, double-amputee due to flu complications



Noel Smith, lost to flu, 1 year old



Luke Duvall, hospitalized 30 days due to flu



Amiah Houseman, lost to flu, 4 years old



To read the stories of families impacted by flu, visit [www.familiesfightingflu.org/family-stories](http://www.familiesfightingflu.org/family-stories)

### Vaccines Save Lives



Kaden Stevenson, double-amputee due to flu complications



Noel Smith, lost to flu, 1 year old



Luke Duvall, hospitalized 30 days due to flu



Amiah Houseman, lost to flu, 4 years old



To read the stories of families impacted by flu, visit [www.familiesfightingflu.org/family-stories](http://www.familiesfightingflu.org/family-stories)

### Las vacunas salvan vidas



Kaden Stevenson, doble amputado debido a complicaciones de la gripe



Noel Smith, fallecida por la gripe, 1 año de edad



Luke Duvall, hospitalizado 30 días debido a la gripe



Amiah Houseman, fallecida por la gripe, 4 años de edad



Para leer las historias de familias afectadas por la gripe, visite [www.familiesfightingflu.org/family-stories](http://www.familiesfightingflu.org/family-stories)

## FREE VACCINE CLINIC

#### Offering:

- Flu Shot
- FluMist
- COVID-19 vaccine

Have insurance? Please bring your insurance card.

No insurance? No problem! No out-of-pocket cost for anyone.

## FREE VACCINE CLINIC

Wednesday, November 06, 2024  
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Beacon Charter High School  
320 Main Street  
Woonsocket, RI 02895  
In the cafeteria

For: Students, Staff/Faculty

#### Offering:

- Flu Shot
- FluMist
- COVID-19 vaccine

Have insurance? Please bring your insurance card.

No insurance? No problem! No out-of-pocket cost for anyone.



To register for this clinic or find other clinics in your area:

- 1 Scan QR code or visit [www.schoolflu.com](http://www.schoolflu.com)
- 2 Enter login ID to register: **beaconchart**

Registration is highly recommended. Limited walk-ins are available.



Hablamos español | Falamos português

For questions about online registration or help in other languages, call 401-222-5960 / RI Relay 711

## CLÍNICA DE VACUNACIÓN GRATUITA



Para encontrar una clínica en su área escanee el código QR o visite [www.schoolflu.com](http://www.schoolflu.com)

Se recomienda registrarse.  
Las visitas sin cita previa disponibles son limitadas.

#### Ofrecemos:

- Vacuna contra la gripe
- Vacuna nasal (FluMist)
- Vacuna contra el COVID-19

¿Tiene seguro médico? Por favor traiga su tarjeta de seguro médico.

¿No tiene seguro médico? ¡No hay problema! Sin costo para usted.

Hablamos español | Falamos português

Para preguntas sobre la registración en el Internet o asistencia en otros idiomas, llame al 401-222-5960 / RI Relay 711



# FFF Educational Resources

## Continuously Expanding

### Educational Materials

### Social Media

### Spanish

### Indigenous

### 3 Steps to Fight Flu...

- VACCINATE**  
The best protection is an annual flu vaccine for all persons 6 months and older every year.  
Flu is especially serious for:  
- Children under 5  
- Severely immunized under 2  
- Pregnant women  
- People 65+  
- People with asthma, heart disease, or diabetes
- TEST**  
Don't ignore symptoms - ask to get tested for flu. Flu symptoms can look like many other illnesses and testing is the only way to know for certain.  
Knowing which virus is making you sick allows your healthcare provider to give you the best treatment.
- TREAT**  
If you test positive for flu, antivirals can be prescribed by your healthcare provider to decrease the risk of flu complications and death.  
People who get vaccinated may still get sick with flu, but are less likely to have a serious illness, hospitalization, or death.

### Childhood Immunization Schedule

**1 Year**  
- Hib (4 doses)  
- Polio (3 doses)  
- DTaP (3 doses)  
- PCV13 (3 doses)  
- Hepatitis B (3 doses)

**15-18 Months**  
- Hib (4th dose)  
- Polio (4th dose)  
- DTaP (4th dose)  
- PCV13 (4th dose)  
- Hepatitis B (4th dose)

**2-5 Years**  
- Hib (5th dose)  
- Polio (5th dose)  
- DTaP (5th dose)  
- PCV13 (5th dose)  
- Hepatitis B (5th dose)

**6-12 Months**  
- Hib (1st dose)  
- Polio (1st dose)  
- DTaP (1st dose)  
- PCV13 (1st dose)  
- Hepatitis B (1st dose)

**12-15 Months**  
- Hib (2nd dose)  
- Polio (2nd dose)  
- DTaP (2nd dose)  
- PCV13 (2nd dose)  
- Hepatitis B (2nd dose)

**15-18 Months**  
- Hib (3rd dose)  
- Polio (3rd dose)  
- DTaP (3rd dose)  
- PCV13 (3rd dose)  
- Hepatitis B (3rd dose)

### How ARE FLU & SEPSIS RELATED?

SEPSIS IS THE BODY'S EXTREME REACTION TO ANY TYPE OF INFECTION. THE FLU CAN CAUSE SECONDARY COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS SEPSIS.

### PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM THE FLU

There is a **0% CHANCE OF GETTING THE FLU** from the flu vaccine.

On average, **80% OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE DIED FROM THE FLU WERE NOT VACCINATED** against influenza.

Flu vaccine has a **PROVEN TRACK RECORD**, has been used in the U.S. since 1945.

If your child shows symptoms, **GET TESTED FOR FLU**. If positive, your doctor may prescribe antivirals that can lessen flu symptoms.

### Know the Different Symptoms

- Flu: Fever or chills, Cough, Sore throat, Shortness of breath.
- COVID-19: Fever or chills, Cough, New loss of taste or smell, Shortness of breath.
- Common Cold: Runny or stuffy nose, Sneezing, Sore throat, Mild to moderate throat discomfort.

### Get vaccinated.

FFF Flu Almost Took Her has been used in the U.S. since 1945.

### Con salud, el juego no para

Stay in the Game Top of Game Flyer in Spanish

Todos los personas mayores de 6 meses deben recibir la vacuna antigripal una vez al año.

No puedes dar lo mejor de ti si tienes gripe y estás quedando en casa. La vacuna antigripal aun te puede ayudar a mantenerte en buen estado de salud.

### 1: Vaccinate

Flu vaccination is the best preventative measure you can take. The CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every season. Although the flu vaccine won't prevent every case of the flu, getting an annual vaccination is a serious illness.

Copy of FFF\_Take\_Flu\_Seriously!

### 2: Test

Get tested if you have symptoms. Flu vaccine, don't fight it. Getting tested for flu. Flu symptoms can look like many other illnesses and testing is the only way to know for sure. Knowing which virus is making you sick allows your healthcare provider to give you the best treatment.

SYMPTOMS	FLU	COVID-19	STEP THERAPY	RSV
Fever	+	+	+	+
Congestion or stuffy nose	+	+	+	+
Runny nose	+	+	+	+
Sore throat	+	+	+	+
Muscle pains	+	+	+	+
Headache	+	+	+	+
Coughing	+	+	+	+
Feeling tired	+	+	+	+

### 3: Treat

Get treatment if you do test positive. Take or medications if prescribed. Antiviral medication when started soon after flu symptoms begin to reduce the risk of complications - including hospital and death.

### Take the Flu Seriously

#### Amiah MorningStar Houseman's Story

YANKTON SIOUX TRIBE

Amiah was a 4-year-old from South Dakota when she tragically lost her life to influenza B.

Her mother, Bethany, deeply regrets that Amiah was not vaccinated against the flu that year and now advocates for others to get their annual flu vaccine and seek prompt testing for influenza at the first signs of illness, as treatment can begin as early as possible.

Vaccinate. Test. Treat.

### Communication 101

#### Questions About Flu & Flu Vaccination

**I thought the flu isn't serious?**  
Thousands of healthy people die of flu each year. People who are vaccinated are less likely to be hospitalized or die from the flu.

**Why do I need to get a flu vaccine every year?**  
There are many different strains (types) of flu that can make people sick, and these can change from year to year as flu viruses evolve. In order to keep up with this change, flu vaccines are updated annually.

**Can the flu vaccine cause the flu?**  
Absolutely not! The flu vaccine contains a dead (inactivated) or weakened (attenuated) form of the flu virus, or sometimes even no flu virus at all, so it's impossible for it to give you the flu.

**What if I am healthy?**  
Anyone can be affected by flu no matter their age, health status, gender, or lifestyle. Practicing healthy habits is a must, but is not a replacement for annual flu vaccination.

**When should I get myself and my family vaccinated?**  
It takes approximately two weeks following vaccination for your body to build up protection against the flu, so it's ideal to get vaccinated before flu starts spreading. Getting vaccinated any time before or during flu season is better than never.

### Childhood Immunization Schedule

**FLU VACCINE**  
The CDC recommends children 6 months and older get a flu vaccine every year.

**COVID-19 VACCINE**  
All eligible individuals should receive the recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

# We Share Our Family Stories

## Educating with Print & Digital Resources

### Story Postcard & Warning Signs

#### Flu Can Be Dangerous

The best way to protect yourself and your family from this serious disease is to get an annual flu vaccination.

#### Emergency warning signs of flu symptoms in adolescents

If an adolescent becomes sick with the flu, his or her condition can easily deteriorate in a matter of hours. Keep an eye out for any of the following critical symptoms, as it

- Ribs pulling in with each breath
- Chest pain
- Severe muscle pain
- Not alert or interacting when awake
- Seizures
- Fever above 104°F

any of these symptoms, attention right away.

#### Blake Crane

Blake was a healthy 16-year-old that loved baseball, fishing, playing Xbox, reading, and his family. Flu attacked his body and he stopped breathing. He went into cardiac arrest and died on February 17, 2020, with his mom whispering in one ear and his dad in the other.

Blake's parents urge you to learn the warning signs of flu to know when to seek medical attention.

#### FLU FACTS

- Children have the most flu infections of any age group
- 80% of pediatric flu deaths are among children who were not vaccinated against flu
- Among healthy children, flu vaccination reduces risk of death from influenza by 65%
- The flu vaccine cannot cause the flu



For more information, please visit: [www.familiesfightingflu.org](http://www.familiesfightingflu.org)



### Social Media Graphics

Flu almost took their lives. Don't let it take yours.  
**Get vaccinated.**



 **FAMILIES**  
FIGHTING FLU, INC.  
[WWW.FAMILIESFIGHTINGFLU.ORG](http://WWW.FAMILIESFIGHTINGFLU.ORG)

JJ was a healthy 2-year-old who died from the flu less than a day after first showing symptoms.



His parents share his story to educate about the importance of flu vaccination and the potential dangers of flu.



**The flu can be deadly.**  
Learn the warning signs and get vaccinated every year.



Amiah was just 4 years old when she died from the flu.

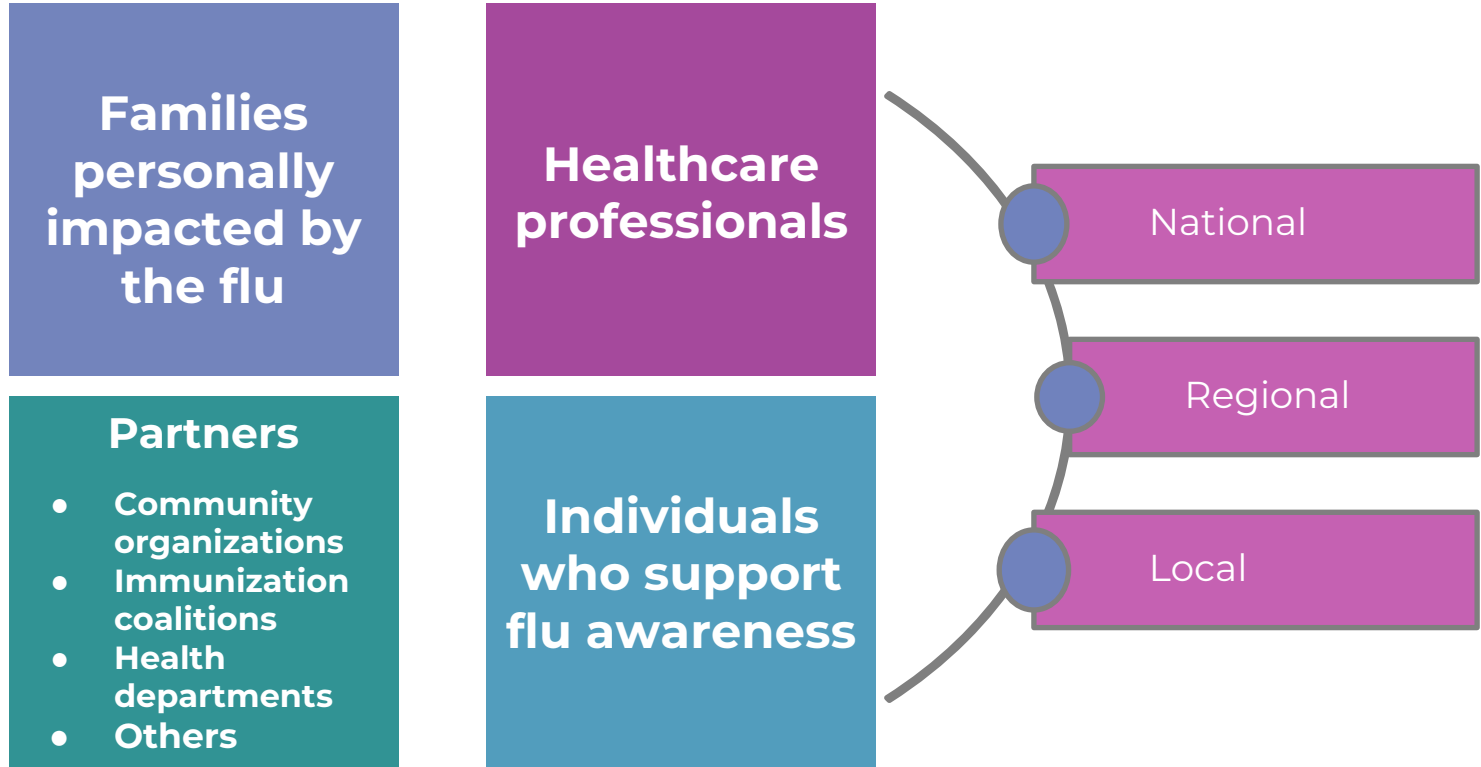
Her mother will always wonder if getting Amiah vaccinated could have saved her life.



**The flu can be deadly.**  
Learn the warning signs and get vaccinated every year.



# We Expand Our Reach By Working Together





# Q&A

# Contact Us



FAMILIES  
FIGHTING FLU



Visit Families Fighting Flu to Learn More

[FamiliesFightingFlu.org](https://FamiliesFightingFlu.org)



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