



## **THE FLU SHOT: Safe? Effective? Worth the risk?**

Signs are popping up all across our communities encouraging everyone to “Get Your Free Flu Shot!” How much do you know about the influenza vaccine? Do you agree that it is safe, effective, and worth the risk?

**CONCERN 1:** At best, the flu vaccine reduces the **absolute risk of contracting the flu by a meager 5%**. In fact, a Cochrane review of studies concluded that **71 people likely need to be vaccinated to avoid a single case of influenza**.

**CONCERN 2:** Shockingly, **drug companies are not legally or financially liable for harm or death caused by their flu vaccines**. Instead, the injured are compensated via the government’s National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP). **Vaccine injury compensation for flu vaccines has reached a staggering \$900 million**.

**CONCERN 3:** The flu shot makes up approx. **44% of administered vaccines but 70% of injuries and deaths**, making it among the most injurious vaccines on the market.

**CONCERN 4:** Drug companies are big businesses and flu shots are big money! In 2018, the global flu vaccine market reached **\$5.2 billion**. 2020 will likely break records. The 2019 financial reports of the top 3 flu vaccine makers also reveal that **their vaccine segments achieved the highest profit margins of all their business segments**.

**CONCERN 5:** Flu shots are not tested against an inert placebo, such as saline. Instead, **their safety trials use other vaccines or adjuvants as their control group**.

**CONCERN 6:** The flu shot may make you **more prone to other respiratory illnesses**.

**CONCERN 7:** The flu shot does not stop the actual transmission of the flu and **may make recipients even more virulent**.

**CONCERN 8:** Could the flu shot increase your risk of dying from COVID-19? One study points to this **very real possibility**.

**Does the risk-benefit analysis support taking the flu shot?  
What is your conclusion?**

**For sources and more information, visit: [KSHF.org/FluShot](https://ksHF.org/FluShot)**



## DOCTORS on the FLU SHOT

**DR. PETER GOTZSCHE** MD; Co-founder of Cochrane research group

“Inactivated influenza vaccines probably reduce influenza in healthy adults from 2.3% without vaccination to 0.9% . . . This could be considered a worthwhile effect at the population level but hardly at the individual level, as **71 healthy adults need to be vaccinated to prevent one of them experiencing influenza...** It was quite disappointing that **vaccination did not decrease admissions to hospital... or days off work...**”

**DR. PETER DOSHI** PHD; Associate Editor - The British Medical Journal;  
Associate Professor - University of Maryland

“There should be at least two randomized trials that both demonstrated **influenza vaccines reduce hospitalizations, ICU admissions, or mortality.** But in reality, despite influenza vaccines being recommended since 1960, **there is not even a single randomized trial showing this.** The proven benefits should also be large enough that it can be confidently judged that influenza vaccines will bring public health benefits far in excess of any potential harms.”

**DR. THOMAS JEFFERSON** MD; Fellow of Faculty of Public Health - UK

“Randomized clinical trials have not demonstrated that administration of **influenza vaccine reduces the risk of hospitalization or mortality.** I would like to make the further points based on 25 years of trial research synthesis: the current influenza vaccines have such **low effectiveness** that the U.S. CDC has assigned a **negative value** to their effectiveness.”

**DR. ANDREW NOYMER** PHD; Associate Professor – University of California, Irvine – Department of Population Health and Disease Prevention

“The influenza vaccine is not tested each year because it is regarded as generally efficacious, with the **assumption** that it will be so every year. Yet, in past years before this assumption was made, clinical trials were conducted, and in some years the vaccine was shown to be **negatively efficacious...** The vaccine group in the randomized controlled trials was actually **worse off than the placebo group.**”