

CONTEST CORNER



Missed A Special Occasion Because Of Flu?

(NAPSA)—If you've ever missed a birthday party, school play, anniversary or any other special occasion because you were in bed with the flu, you're not alone. Each year approximately 17 million to 50 million people in the United States suffer from influenza, often missing school, work, and sometimes a special, once-in-a-lifetime event. Although you cannot predict when the flu will strike, nearly everyone can reduce his or her risk of getting the flu by being vaccinated; however, only your health care provider can determine if vaccination is appropriate for you.

"Influenza not only costs people time and money but can disrupt their daily lives, causing them to miss a special event such as a graduation, family vacation, or a wedding," explained Laura Scott, contest organizer.

To generate awareness about the disruption that influenza can cause in daily life, Wyeth and MedImmune, Inc. created the Missed Opportunities national essay contest. Do you have an interesting story about a "missed opportunity" due to the flu? Tell us in 150 words or less and you could win a chance to recreate the missed event. The winner will receive the opportunity to recreate an event missed as a result of the flu, not exceeding \$2,500 in value. Two runners-up will each receive \$500 to help recreate their special events ruined by the flu.

You must be 18 years or older to enter. Entries must be legible and include your first name, last name, address, daytime telephone number, e-mail address, and year of birth. Entries must be submitted online, faxed, or postmarked by November 1, 2003. Participants can submit essays online at www.missed-opportunities.com; via fax at 202/835-8879; or by mail to Missed Opportunities Essay Contest, 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036, Attn: Laura Scott. Winners will be announced in December 2003.