

# An expanded comment on the use of FluMist<sup>®</sup> for children and adults

**Walter R. Schumm, PhD**

School of Family Studies and Human Services

Justin Hall, Kansas State University

1700 Anderson Avenue

Manhattan, KS 66506-1403 USA

Phone: +1 785 539 3641 (home) +1 785 532 1494 (office)

Fax: +1 785 532 5505

Email: Schumm@ksu.edu (work) WRSchumm@aol.com (home)

Submitted: December 4, 2004 Accepted: January 14, 2005

---

## Abstract

Recent disclosures of ethical lapses in medical research have heightened concern that the public be accurately informed of the benefits and risks of medical procedures and pharmaceutical agents. Statistics from the package insert for FluMist<sup>®</sup> were reanalyzed to check their accuracy. While a few minor errors may have been detected, the overriding issue is that FluMist<sup>®</sup> does not appear to reduce a person's chance of becoming ill during the annual flu season, only of reducing their chances of becoming severely ill from the flu itself. Such information should be provided to patients to allow them to make informed choices about their prospective medical procedures.

© Copyright 2005, Pearblossom Private School, Inc.—Publishing Division. All rights reserved.

*Keywords:* Flu vaccine, FluMist<sup>®</sup>, informed consent, medical ethics