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New COVID-19 vaccine television spot features Michigan mom who almost lost her life to COVID-19

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Protect Michigan Commission are launching a [new television spot](#) today featuring the story of a 27-year-old Michigan mom who — only days after giving birth to her second child — was hospitalized and almost lost her life to COVID-19. The new spot is a continuation of the “My Why” series highlighting Michiganders and their reasons for getting vaccinated.

Kayleigh Fox of Walkerville was 39-weeks pregnant when she was diagnosed with COVID-19 in late March. After delivering her son Oak via a scheduled C-section, she was discharged, but had to return to the hospital only three days later after her COVID symptoms worsened.

“I couldn’t breathe at all,” said Fox. “There was lots of talk about putting me on a ventilator. I thought I was going to die.”

During her month-long stay in the hospital, Fox developed a blood clot in her lungs that caused her to go into right-sided heart failure.

“I kept texting my husband and my mom telling them how scared I was,” she said. “I was worried that my son was going to grow up without a mom.”

“Kayleigh’s story is a powerful example of how dangerous COVID-19 can be,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health with MDHHS. “As we continue to work to protect more Michiganders with the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, we are calling on everyone to share their ‘why’ with their friends and family — to highlight the personal reasons why getting vaccinated is so important. Having these conversations could save the life of someone you love.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that pregnant women be offered the COVID-19 vaccine upon consultation with their medical provider. Pregnant women are more likely to get severely ill with COVID-19. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that all eligible persons, including pregnant and lactating individuals, receive a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine series.

[The spot featuring Fox’s story](#) will air statewide on broadcast television, cable, connected TV, Hulu, YouTube, gas station TV and social media.

Fox encourages everyone to get the vaccine. “I don’t want this to happen to anyone else.”

My Why COVID Spots

More than 5.1 million Michiganders 16 years of age and older — 63.9% of Michiganders — have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Michigan residents seeking more information about the COVID-19 vaccine can visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://www.michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine). Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus).

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