**AUDIO NEWS RELEASE—October 2020**

**CDC FLU – 2020-2021 Flu Season (Dr. Messonnier)**

**00:60**

**ANCHOR TRACK 1**

As the world battles an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and flu season approaches, health experts say getting a vaccine this season is more important than ever to protect yourself, your family, and your community from flu. Dr. Nancy Messonnier, with the CDC explains.

**TALENT SOUNDBITE [Read by Dr. Messonnier]**

Flu vaccines prevent millions of flu illnesses, tens of thousands of flu hospitalizations, and thousands of deaths every year. Flu vaccines have been used for more than 50 years to safely vaccinate hundreds of millions of Americans. This season, getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever. By getting vaccinated, you are helping to protect yourself AND the people around you from flu.

While it’s unclear what impact COVID-19 will have on the upcoming flu season, it’s very clear that a flu vaccine is the best way to reduce the risk from flu and its potentially serious complications.

**ANCHOR TRACK 2**

For more information, visit cdc.gov/fightflu.