

Missed H1N1 nearly kills child

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LEE COUNTY: A nine-year-old Southwest Florida girl nearly died after being misdiagnosed. Her mom explained she was taken to the emergency room multiple times before it was discovered she actually had Swine Flu.

Hayli Murphy looks like a typical third grader. But in the past couple months; the precocious child's life has been anything but normal.

"She got sick one Sunday afternoon after a busy weekend, got a high fever," said Hayli's mom Julie Murphy.

That was back in September, when the family's nightmare began.

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Murphy says her little girl was so sick; she took her back and forth to the emergency room. But since the rapid flu test kept coming back "negative," doctors sent her home on more than one occasion.

"When they brought it back negative, I'm going, 'Well she doesn't have the flu, that's good. So what's wrong with her?'" said Murphy.

But Hayli wasn't getting better. So her mom took her to the hospital yet again. This time, she stayed.

"She just kept getting worse and worse by the minute," Murphy said.

She said Hayli was on her death bed at the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. She found out, about 10 days after Hayli was admitted, that she did in fact have Swine Flu.

"It was heartbreaking. I relied on a lot of prayers," Murphy said.

Hayli was in the hospital for a total of 47 days and she was on life support for 28 of those days. During that time, she lost almost 20 pounds.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the rapid diagnostic test isn't full-proof.

"It's only a piece of the puzzle and that's an important thing for patients to understand. The lab test isn't the beginning and the end," explained Dr. Judith Hartner of the Lee County Health Department.

Murphy says her daughter is truly lucky.

She says Hayli is still in the recovery stage and will go back to school in January - just in time for her tenth birthday.

By [Christina Mora](#)