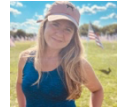


Remembering the Death of Dykota Morgan

A look back at how public health leveraged tragedy to sell parents and minority groups on the dangers of COVID-19 and the "need" to "vaccinate" children and teens

JESSICA HOCKETT | SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

WOOD HOUSE 76



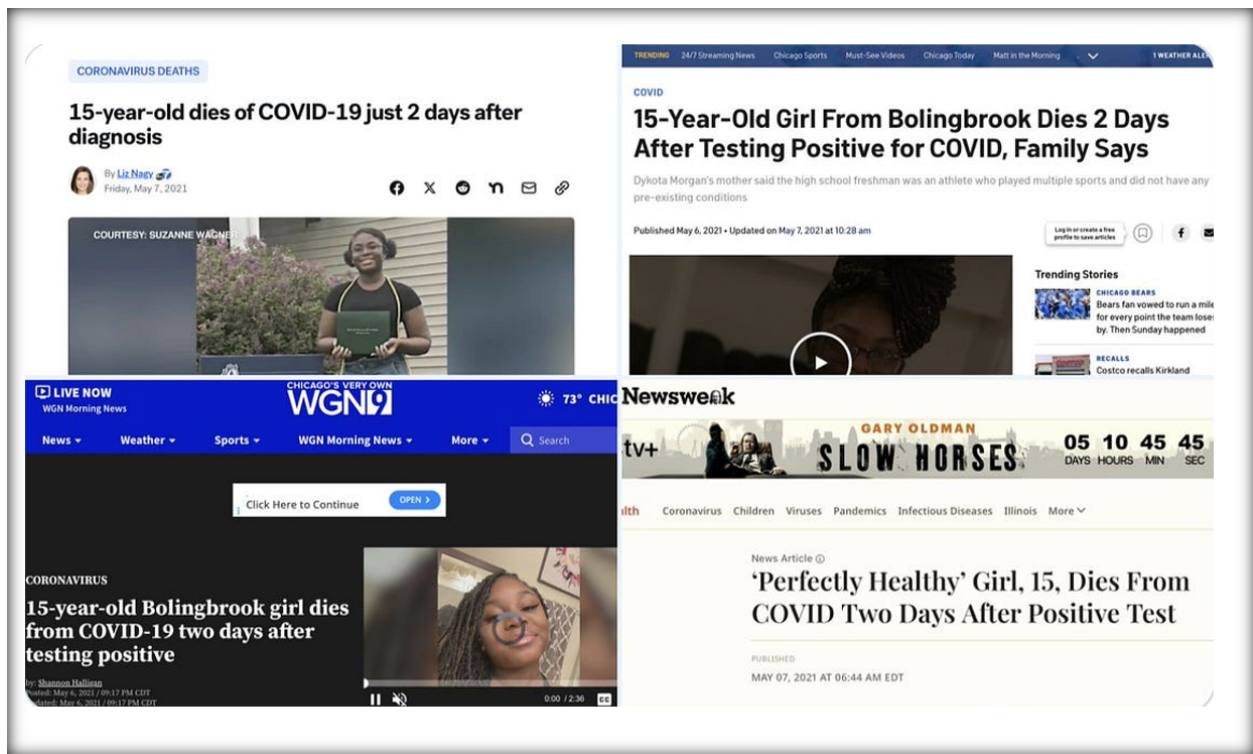
A friend and I were speaking this week about deaths of children and teens in Chicagoland in 2020 - 2022 that one or both of us had looked into. I had forgotten about Dykota Morgan of Bolingbrook and revisited some of the details in a thread [on X this morning](#) and repeat here in essay form.

A screenshot of the Will County Health Department & Community Health Center website. The header includes navigation links: ABOUT, PROGRAMS & SERVICES, CAREERS, FORMS, DATA & PUBLICATIONS, COVID-19, and CONTACT. The main content area features a video player on the left with a portrait of Dykota Morgan and text stating: "15 year-old Dykota, from Bolingbrook, passed away one week before the COVID-19 Vaccine was Approved for Children 12+". To the right of the video is the title "DYKOTA'S STORY" in large green and blue letters. Below the title is a paragraph: "Dykota Morgan, a 15 year old from Bolingbrook, IL, was tragically taken from her parents and family within 72 hours of exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. She contracted COVID-19 and passed away one week before the vaccine was approved for use in children ages 12-17. Listen to her parents, Krystal and Rashad tell her story and why it is so important to them to ensure children get vaccinated."

In May 2021, the Will County (IL) Public Health Department shamefully leveraged the tragic death of 15-year-old Dykota Morgan, and her parents' grief, for COVID-shot propaganda aimed at increasing uptake among African Americans.

When Dykota, an athlete and artist from Bolingbrook, Illinois, died on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, Chicago media reported her death quickly, as media typically do with unexpected child deaths that are in the public interest.

National media picked it up too. The emphasis across news outlets was on Dykota being a healthy child who died from COVID-19, a ridiculous idea [refuted by public data](#).



A [9-minute interview](#) with Dykota's parents is still posted on the Will County Health Department website. Their detailed, heartfelt testimony deserves attention for the sequence of events, which included treatment at two hospitals. Dykota had tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 on a rapid test at home prior hospital admission and was, I imagine, tested at the hospital as well

I'm not a doctor or a lawyer, but Dykota's parents saying their daughter was put into a "medically-induced coma" catches my attention and, with other details, leaves me with the impression that the case should be opened for investigation and the actual causes of death reconsidered and disclosed.

It's a tragedy no matter what, of course. Dykota's life absolutely mattered, as does her death, which (like others across the U.S.) was presented as due to COVID-19 and then used to persuade parents to have their children vaccinated.

DYKOTA'S LIFE MATTERED. SO DOES YOURS.

Get a vaccine for yourself and your child age 12 and up at one of our clinics listed below.



REQUIREMENTS FOR 12-17 YEAR OLD VACCINES

All minors under 18 must have a parent or legal guardian present during their appointment and must remain with the child throughout the entire visit.

Children ages 12-17 may only receive the Pfizer vaccine which has been approved by the FDA and CDC.

Find your Pfizer Vaccine Clinic below or call **815-774-7386** to schedule an appointment.



Can't Attend Appointment With Your Child?

If a parent or legal guardian is unable to accompany their child to a clinic run by Will County Health Department, their child can still receive a vaccine if:

- The minor is accompanied by someone over the age of 18 designated by their parent or legal guardian, and
- The minor brings the consent [FORM](#) signed by their parent or legal guardian. [SPANISH FORM](#)



Health Department
815-727-8480

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815-727-8670

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NEW COVID-19 VACCINE DRIVE

IN HONOR OF DYKOTA MORGAN

LAUNCHES TO INCREASE VACCINATIONS

AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS

SPECIAL VACCINE CLINIC TO BE HELD ON JUNE 26TH



The county health department held a vaccine drive in Dykota's name and offered tickets to a Six Flags theme park as incentives. The [press release for the event](#) is full of unsubstantiated claims and the core message unmistakable: *COVID-19 is a threat to healthy children. If Dykota had had the chance to get the COVID shot, she would not have died.*

Bolingbrook, IL

A compelling new COVID-19 Vaccination Drive featuring the parents of Dykota Morgan, a 15 year-old Bolingbrook teen who lost her life to COVID-19, was launched today by the Will County Health Department to encourage African American parents to get themselves and their children age 12 and older vaccinated.

"I don't want any parent to feel this void that we have," said Krystal Morgan, mother of Dykota. "Nobody should have to feel this. This is the worst feeling in the world, especially when you know you did everything you could to protect them."

Dykota Morgan was a healthy student athlete at Bolingbrook High School when she began showing symptoms of COVID-19 on Saturday, May 1st. She tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday, May 2nd and rapidly declined leading to her tragic death on May 4th at Central DuPage Hospital.

"If you look at our daughter, she was in tip-top shape and she had no underlying conditions, and what COVID-19 did to her in such a short time, it can do to any child," said Rashad Bingham, Dykota's father.

Dykota passed away one week before the CDC and FDA approved children age 12 and older to receive the COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccine. Ironically, her mother had pre-registered Dykota to receive the vaccine in anticipation of the approval.

"She always worked to make a difference in life as a friend, a teammate and a caring human being," said Krystal Morgan. "She would have wanted us to continue her legacy of caring for others by encouraging all families and especially black families to get vaccinated."

The Will County Health Department announced they will be holding a special COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in Dykota's honor on Saturday, June 26th from 10AM – 2PM, at Hubert H. Humphrey Middle School, 777 Falconridge Way, Bolingbrook, IL 60440. This will be a FIRST DOSE PFIZER CLINIC ONLY. Anyone over the age of 12 who has not been vaccinated is encouraged to schedule online at www.willcountyhealth.org or walk-in.

"It takes all of us working together to address the concerns of African Americans regarding the vaccine and improve vaccination rates in Will County," said Jennifer Bertino Tarrant, County Executive. "Dykota Morgan's life story will save lives by increasing vaccinations. I am so grateful for her parents' brave decision to come forward and share her story."

As of June 10th, 2021, 25.31% of African Americans living in Will County have been fully vaccinated compared to 33.19% of the white Will County residents according to data from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

According to Pew Research Center only 42% of African Americans say they will definitely or probably get a COVID-19 vaccine compared to 61% of white Americans. African Americans have been hesitant to come forward and receive the vaccine due to a number of factors including historical mistrust of medical care and myths that have surrounded the COVID-19 vaccine.

"We are very thankful to Krystal and Rashad for raising their voices to urge everyone, and parents in particular, to get themselves and their children vaccinated," said Sue Olenek, Executive Director of the Will County Health Department. "Hopefully, because of them, more children will be vaccinated and protected from COVID-19."

Her father, Rashad Bingham, is quoted as saying,

"If you look at our daughter, she was in tip-top shape and she had no underlying conditions, and what COVID-19 did to her in such a short time, it can do to any child."

I don't blame Mr. Bingham for saying this, first and foremost because I have no judgement for anything a parent says after losing a child. I have two children and can't begin to imagine such a loss and unbearable weight of grief. (I attended the funeral service of a Chicago-area teen who took his own life in November 2021, at a time when I was [tracking such deaths](#).)

I also don't blame him because U.S. and Illinois agencies led Dykota's dad and millions of other parents to believe that "COVID-19" was a killer of healthy children. I eventually came to the conclusion that there was no new spreading disease in late 2019/early 2020. Yet even those who disagree should be able, at this point, to concede that there was *never* a

basis for claiming that millions of children and teens required an injection to “prevent” (what the WHO called) COVID-19 – or for the propaganda, high-pressure tactics, disregard for the law, and abrogations of bodily autonomy that came with it.

Whatever the FDA reveals today or tomorrow about child deaths tied to the COVID shot, **do not forget** everything that was said and done to create the illusion of a serious threat to children and to pressure parents into giving them a rushed, untested product they didn’t need.

Do not forget Dykota Morgan.

