

BROADCAST-COVID-19 Vaccines Safe for People Taking Medication

While stories of people clamoring for a COVID-19 vaccine are dominating headlines, a [recent survey by CNN](#) shows 1 in 4 people are hesitant to get vaccinated.

There are many reasons for the hesitation – among them is a concern the vaccine will negatively interact with medication someone is taking to manage a chronic or acute condition. Dr. Mark Meeker, vice president of physician services for Peoria, Illinois-based OSF HealthCare, says so far, there is no indication any of the available COVID-19 vaccines interact negatively with prescription meds.

SOT- Dr. Mark Meeker, vice president of physician services, OSF HealthCare

“Right now I would say the potential with a drug-drug interaction with the COVID vaccines, causing a clinically significant issue, are extremely low. That’s what I see in the literature so far.” (:13)

People with a variety of medical conditions taking medication to control their condition were included in the vaccine trials, according to Dr. Meeker. And, he says vaccines and medications can sometimes affect each other, but the interactions don’t usually cause *significant* problems.

SOT- Dr. Mark Meeker, vice president of physician services, OSF HealthCare

“So it’s in the literature. It’s out there. People get excited about it. But, from a clinical standpoint, it doesn’t appear we’re seeing significant adverse events from that interaction.” (:12)

The bottom line, Dr. Meeker says, is far more dangerous than getting the vaccine, especially for those with underlying health issues that require medication.

SOT- Dr. Mark Meeker, vice president of physician services, OSF HealthCare

“If they have any concerns whatsoever, talk to your physician about it or your nurse practitioner or your PA (physician assistant), whoever you see for your primary needs. Talk to them about it, that’s the best way to alleviate your fears.” (:13)

The Washington Post recently reported some people who have spent months suffering from [long-haul COVID-19](#) are taking to social media to report their symptoms disappear after being vaccinated, but Dr. Meeker says much more research is needed in that area.

SOT- Dr. Mark Meeker, vice president of physician services, OSF HealthCare

“I saw one report of an observation that a group (of researchers) made that they thought people with long, lingering symptoms seemed to recover quicker when they got vaccinated but that’s not hard-based evidence yet.” (:13)

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s leading infectious disease doctor and medical advisor to the president, has stressed the success in fighting COVID-19 relies on vaccinating as many Americans as quickly and safely as possible. With so many people still reluctant, Dr. Meeker and other health leaders are concerned hesitancy means it’ll take longer to move to a point where we won’t need to wear masks, physically distance or quarantine.