Soundbite Script – What's That (Lack of) Smell?

Dr. Terrence Loughlin, Otolaryngologist, OSF HealthCare

"We know that loss of smell can be the first sign that you have a COVID infection. We have a better understanding now that the COVID virus can temporarily put the neurons responsible for sense of smell out of commission by affecting the cells supporting neurons rather than invading the neurons."

Dr. Terrence Loughlin, Otolaryngologist, OSF HealthCare

"You can lose your sense of smell due to an infection of the sinuses which should be treated, you can lose your sense of smell with polyps in your nose, you can lose your sense of smell with neurological diseases such as Parkinson's, and those are issues that really should be investigated and treated by a doctor."

Dr. Terrence Loughlin, Otolaryngologist, OSF HealthCare

"There are a lot of people who are depressed because of the loss of sense of smell. Part of the reason is because of the loss of sense of smell diminishes your sense of taste or eliminates your sense of taste. And not being able to enjoy food as you are used to is very depressing."

Dr. Terrence Loughlin, Otolaryngologist, OSF HealthCare

"There have been a lot of numbers published on how long we lose our sense of smell. I think the most common published numbers are that 50 % of people get their sense of smell back in three weeks and 95 % percent of people with loss of sense of smell get it back within a half of year."