

Transcript of Video/Audio Clips with Dana DeShon, Advanced Practice Nurse, specializing in Pediatrics, OSF HealthCare

DeShon recommends getting [pre-teens and teens vaccinated](#) now so children can be fully vaccinated in time for the new school year.

“Now is the time we should be getting that vaccination to make sure that those kids that are 12 and older are protecting not only themselves and their family and those who they are around, but also their peers and younger kids who have not been able to get that vaccination because they’re not eligible or old enough to get that.” (:22)

DeShon says as a medical provider, it’s frustrating to learn about those deaths because kids are dying from a preventable disease.

“It is definitely not as high of a percentage as what we would see in the older population, but I still think 400 is way too much more than we would see. It’s double the amount we would see in an influenza season.” (:14)

DeShon says globally, the number of missed vaccinations is staggering.

“Statistically, I think we’re still about 23 million doses behind for missing those vaccinations. We haven’t seen anything lag like this since about 2009, so it’s been a long time since we’ve seen any problems with this. And it’s not just a United States problem, it’s a worldwide problem.” (:20)

Immunizations prevent 14 infectious diseases.

“Those prevent about a million deaths in children per year. It also helps to prevent hospitalizations. Up to 8 million hospitalizations are prevented when we get those vaccinations.” (:15)

Diseases that have been mostly eradicated, such as polio and meningitis, could return, DeShon says.

“That’s always the concern – that if we are not catching up those kids in those areas that we should get those levels of vaccination rates, that we will definitely see surges of those diseases that have been far off for a long time, now coming back.” (:21)