

**Transcript of Video-Audio with Dr. Michael Leonardi, MD, OBGYN and maternal-fetal medicine specialist, OSF HealthCare**

**“I am scared to death we are going to start losing pregnant women from COVID.” (:09)**

Leonardi is worried about what he’s starting to see in OSF HealthCare hospitals.

**“We’ve had several pregnant women in our ICUs, we’ve had several pregnant women on ventilators because of COVID, and pregnant women having to be delivered prematurely because of COVID – more than one. Last weekend, when I was on call and rounding, one-third of labor and delivery beds were taken up by women with COVID who had no reason other than COVID to be in the hospital.” (:22)**

Pregnancy puts women at high risk for complications from the virus.

**“Pregnant women who get infected with COVID are three or four times more likely to end up in an intensive care unit, several times more likely to end up on a ventilator, and a couple times more likely to die than the exact same person who is not pregnant.” (:18)**

Dr. Leonardi urges pregnant women to consider evidence that being pregnant and getting COVID-19 can have dire long-term effects.

**“Even though it’s scary (to get vaccinated against the virus), the thought of a pregnant lady dying from COVID or the thought of a pregnant lady having to be delivered months early and then her child having complications for its whole life – that’s scarier to me.” (:15)**

A recent study suggests if their mother gets vaccinated, they can glean immunity either in the womb or through breastmilk.

**“The mom who has been vaccinated against COVID has antibodies against COVID in her breast milk that help protect her baby from getting COVID in the community.” (:10)**