

Transcript Video-Audio Clips with Dr. Stephen Hippler, chief clinical officer for OSF HealthCare

Dr. Hippler warns those who are not vaccinated face a higher risk if they travel this Thanksgiving or during the holiday season.

“Those who remain susceptible, because they are not vaccinated, really are at a higher risk of not only acquiring COVID-19, but being hospitalized and dying.” (:09)

Dr. Hippler says the vaccines are working to keep people out of the hospital.

“The fact of the matter is, we’re not seeing the same degree of hospitalization and death and that’s truly what the vaccines are intended to do – to prevent hospitalization, severe disease and death. And, so far even with the variants, the vaccines we have available have shown to be very effective at preventing hospitalizations and deaths.” (:23)

Dr. Hippler says because many holiday gatherings are indoors, people need to get vaccinated for COVID-19 as well as for those other preventable illnesses.

“Getting the booster to help boost our immunity for those who are vaccinated, getting the primary series for those who have not, and really getting our kids vaccinated to prevent them from getting sick, us from getting sick, our community from getting sick and spreading it to others.” (:20)

Vaccination is the greatest tool to help end the pandemic.

“I would recommend that whenever it’s convenient for you, and wherever you can find it – they’re the same vaccine that you get in any community – so find a shot and get the vaccinations you need.” (:17)