

Soundbite Script – The Link between Croup and COVID-19

Dr. Asma Khan, Pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

“What we think the connection is between omicron and croup is that omicron has been a little different than other COVID strains. The other COVID strains were hitting our lower respiratory – we were having more lung issues and it hit the lower respiratory tract. Omicron is hitting more of the upper respiratory tract – our nose, our pharynx, our larynx, which is our voice box, so it’s presenting more like a common cold. And with little children, because of the inflammation, it can cause more of this croup-like cough.”

Dr. Asma Khan, Pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

“There was a study done at Seattle’s Children (Hospital), which looked at patients that came into the ER with croup – they looked at about 500 kids. They were simultaneously testing every child that came in with croup-like illness for COVID, and they found that about 100 of these kids were actually COVID positive. When they looked at the percentage they noticed that only about 2 to 3 percent of the croup-like cases that were secondary to COVID occurred with the Delta strain, but 48 percent with the omicron strain.”

Dr. Asma Khan, Pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

“If you have mild symptoms it’s important to still get checked out to assess the severity. If it’s getting more serious, at least the provider can determine how bad it is and if it requires more treatment than just supportive care. They can pick up on that during the visit and appropriately take care of it before it gets really bad.”

Dr. Asma Khan, Pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

“I think the vaccine helps with severity, helps prevent spread, and it does prevent complications in the pediatric world, so I talk about how important it is for everyone to be vaccinated.”