

Transcript of Media Clips- RSV vaccine offers protection for people at risk

Dr. Talha Khan, a family medicine physician, OSF HealthCare

Talha Khan, MD, a family medicine physician at OSF HealthCare, says RSV is a common respiratory virus that can affect people of all ages. Young infants and older adults are among those most likely to develop severe illness.

"It can cause pretty severe respiratory infection that can lead to hospitalization and even death, so it is something we don't take lightly. And we do have a vaccine for it now. So we do recommend getting that vaccine, if they're eligible, so they have that extra layer of protection." (:20)

For adults, the RSV vaccine is recommended for everyone age 75 and older according to Dr. Khan.

"It can be given to individuals who are younger than that – age 50 to 74 – if they have some chronic conditions: respiratory disease, things like COPD, asthma, heart disease and if they're a current smoker. All those things put them at increased risk for a more severe infection." (:23)

Dr. Khan indicates the RSV vaccine can offer preventive protection when given to the baby after birth.

"And then it's also recommended for pregnant women if they're pregnant during that respiratory virus season [September-January] as well. They recommend either pregnant women get it or the infant gets it once their born, typically not both." (:16)

While RSV is common, many older adults, says Dr. Khan, may not be as familiar with the vaccine as they are with annual flu or COVID shots.

"A few of my patients have kind of brought up that, 'Oh, that's one of the vaccines I've never heard of,'" says Dr. Khan. "But again it is important because it can cause those severe respiratory infections [including] pneumonia and potentially even lead to death. So, if we can stop that or stop you from getting a serious infection with a one-time vaccine, then why not just get that done." (:23)