

TRANSCRIPT OF MEDIA- Stopping a preventable outbreak: Vaccination is key to ending a resurgence of measles

Dana DeShon, APRN, pediatrician for OSF HealthCare

Measles is the most contagious vaccine-preventable disease.

"You're contagious four days before that rash and up to four days after so we could have 8 to 10 days of people walking around not even knowing they have measles and then they're just spreading it around to people at risk. Obviously, the people most at risk, are the people who are not vaccinated." (:19)

There is, in fact, NO scientific evidence that vaccines cause autism. Deshon points out the National Institutes of Health (NIH) spent millions on research.

"Outside research was also done and there were no links that they could find from that original Lancet study. It got to the point that they said, 'We're not going to do anymore studies because they did not see a link between autism and the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine.'" (:21)

Measles vaccinations are the only way to stop a resurgence of the highly contagious and potentially deadly disease.

"How are we going to stop this? It is not vitamin A. Vitamin A is not going to stop the measles outbreak. We need vaccinations. That is what is going to stop the outbreak that we are seeing, not just in west Texas, but all over in these pockets we're seeing in the United States right now." (:19)

While vaccination is a personal decision, DeShon stresses it impacts health systems, communities, and the most vulnerable among us.

"When it comes to the point that this is something that is so contagious, and now deadly, then we really need to stop and think, 'We need to be doing this, not because of me but because of those around me.'" (:18)