

Soundbite script – The dirt on blastomycosis

Kendall Idle, blastomycosis survivor

"As I was recovering from my broken back, they just took root in my lungs. Right around the time my back was healing up, my lungs started acting up." (:11)

Nicole Pirlot, an infection preventionist, OSF HealthCare

"You can get it from inhaling the spores of the fungus. It is not spread from person to person. So, if someone has blastomycosis you will not catch it from another person." (:12)

Kendall Idle, blastomycosis survivor

"That's when I started feeling like I had chest pain. It was getting harder to breathe. I went to a PromptCare and they told me they thought it was a common cold or something like that, and just keep an eye on it. And if it didn't get better to go see my primary care, and of course, it didn't get better." (:24)

Nicole Pirlot, an infection preventionist, OSF HealthCare

"The signs and symptoms are typical respiratory illness, fevers, cough that is dry. As the disease progresses, it will show cavitary lesions on a chest X ray or a CT exam. And then you can also get chest pain with your cough. It can spread into other organs or cause skin lesions." (:27)

Nicole Pirlot, an infection preventionist, OSF HealthCare

"Individuals who are immunocompromised or have underlying illness, such as diabetes, tend to get severely sicker, and those people may end up needing hospitalization." (:11)

Kendall Idle, blastomycosis survivor

"I'll have some scarring on my lungs for the rest of my life. When I do any kind of heavy activity or exercise, I get short of breath quicker than I used to, for sure." (:14)

Nicole Pirlot, an infection preventionist, OSF HealthCare

"When you're camping around areas of water, where there is the wet soil with decomposing leaves and wood, those are the areas that it frequents. So, if you're digging or doing outdoor activities, those are your higher risk areas. It's just about being aware." (:20)