

## **COVID up, RSV down, Flu steady**

### **ANCHOR INTRO:**

THE LAST FEW MONTHS – COMMUNITIES ACROSS AMERICA HAVE BEEN HIT HARD BY A NUMBER OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES. THE VIRUSES HAVE COME AND GONE IN WAVES.

### **TAKE VO**

IN THE LATE FALL – RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS – OR R-S-V – WAS SPREADING QUICKLY THROUGH YOUNGER CHILDREN AND OLDER ADULTS. FAST FORWARD TO PRESENT DAY – COVID-19 IS ONCE AGAIN THE MAIN ANTAGONIST... WHILE INFLUENZA REMAINS IN THE COMMUNITY AS WELL.

DR. DOUGLAS KASPER... AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST WITH OSF HEALTHCARE... SAYS THE BEST TOOL TO PROTECT OURSELVES AGAINST SEVERE ILLNESS IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE. HE SAYS THE CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINE OFFERED IS DIFFERENT THAN A BOOSTER.

### **TAKE SOT**

“If you’ve received a few COVID-19 shots in 2021 or 2022, you got a booster and you felt like this was a reiteration of that, it’s a little different. That’s the benefit of at least one more COVID vaccine,” Dr. Kasper says. “It adds to the library of immunity in our population. Something that’s different than just boosting over and over again.”

### **VO TAG**

ANOTHER TOOL TO AVAILABLE TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IS TESTING. FREE TESTS ARE AVAILABLE AT COVID.GOV... YOU CAN GET AT LEAST FOUR COVID TESTS SHIPPED RIGHT TO YOUR HOME.

## **VO/SOT #2**

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LARE PART DUE TO HOLIDAY GATHERINGS... TRAVEL... AND KIDS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL.

**TAKE SOT**

“When we talked about COVID-19 in the beginning, we were worried about very severe infections. Fortunately, that has diminished significantly. We still do see people in the hospital, particularly those who are the most vulnerable, that can have difficult times clearing COVID infection. But for the majority of the population who are getting infected, most people are on their second, third, or even more number of times being infected. The severity of symptoms seems to be less than prior infection, but that doesn’t mean it doesn’t disrupt their life.”

**VO TAG**

DR. KASPER SAYS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST SEVERE INFECTION IS STILL THE COVID-19 VACCINE. HE SAYS THE CURRENT VACCINE BEING OFFERED IS NOT A BOOSTER – BUT INSTEAD IS A REFORMULATED VACCINE ... COVERING THE LATEST COVID-19 STRAINS.