

Soundbite Transcript – Your Blood Type and the Risk of COVID-19

Chuck Brackett, director of laboratory services, OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center

“What we’re seeing is that blood Type A individuals definitely are more susceptible to COVID than Type O individuals, but it’s not necessarily something to worry about if you’re blood type A, and it’s not something to celebrate and lose your concentration and precautions if you’re type O. That’s just another factor that can determine whether or not you acquire COVID. And it may not be a big factor, but it’s a factor.”

Chuck Brackett, director of laboratory services, OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center

“I think this is another tool in your arsenal. If you know your blood type, I’m Type A, for example, so I would be at a higher risk for acquiring COVID than someone who is Type O. Now I’m glad to know that. It’s good to know that. Does it make me feel like I’m going to get it the minute I walk out the door, no. And I think the studies indicate that, that it’s not necessarily that way.”

Chuck Brackett, director of laboratory services, OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center

“Now if I’m Type O does that mean I can go out into a crowd and not wear a mask, absolutely not, because the thing we have to remember is every single blood type has had COVID disease. And every single blood type has had severe COVID disease.”

Amy Marchetti, clinical laboratory scientist, OSF HealthCare

“It’s nice to know your blood type, although it’s not really required to know that, a lot of patients do know their blood type which helps to be an informed patient and an informed blood donor but the blood bank types every patient with a blood sample and perform that typing whether they know that information or not.”

Amy Marchetti, clinical laboratory scientist, OSF HealthCare

“Another good reason to know your blood type is so you can answer the call to your community if there is a need for a certain blood type. Better than that if you are a regular blood donor and you can prevent some of the blood shortages that occur.”