

Transcript of Video-Audio Clips with Dr. Raj Patel, OSF HealthCare physician in Bethalto, Illinois

Dr. Patel says it's important to prevent flu and other respiratory diseases as much as possible – particularly this year.

"Our health resources are already stretched and if people get pneumonia or now with the season coming, influenza if they don't take the vaccine, then they'll end up in the hospital with (potentially) other complications also so it's very important that people get their necessary vaccinations." (:21)

Dr. Patel says getting a pneumonia shot doesn't prevent COVID-19 but it can help protect against getting really sick with other types of viruses, such as influenza.

"You don't want to catch pneumonia and that will affect your immune system and make you more susceptible to the COVID infection so definitely a person should take the required pneumonia vaccine." (:19)

The Shingles vaccine is for anyone over 50. He points out everyone's immune system gets weaker as they age and getting the vaccine can prevent a very painful condition.

"Whenever your immune system goes down, the chickenpox virus gets reactivated and develops a rash of shingles which is very painful and debilitated and I think that's why people should take the shingle vaccine, to prevent that." (:22)

Much like wearing a mask protects others around you, Dr. Patel says being vaccinated against infectious diseases - including highly contagious measles - keeps the community and loved ones near you safer.

"When the community as a whole has immunity, there's less chance of getting preventable disease and spreading the disease so it's very important individuals are vaccinated so that other people can benefit from that protection." (:19)

BONUS CLIP FOR ALTON-AREA MEDIA

Dr. Raj Patel has had his own, independent practice for 26 years in Bethalto but now he's joining OSF HealthCare and he's very excited. Dr. Patel says the culture, and Mission to serve with the greatest care and love fit perfectly with his reasons for getting into medicine. As part of an OSF tradition, there will be a blessing of his office at 404 W Bethalto Dr this Friday. Dr. Patel also looks forward to spending more time with patients.

"By joining OSF HealthCare, I'll be mostly focusing on taking care of people rather than taking care of people AND administrative work, so it'll be very helpful." (:15)