

Transcript of video/audio clips with Dr. Cliff Martin, chief medical officer of the Western Region, OSF HealthCare

Dr. Martin says COVID-19 patients spend, on average, a longer time in ICU.

“Each year when we see that (flu), we see that normal progression of what we call ICU progression – two or three days in ICU and they start to improve; maybe go to a less intensive care bed for a little while and then home where with folks with COVID-19, sometimes we see weeks on end of needing ICU care and then ultimately sometimes, lives are lost.” (:25)

According to Dr. Martin, the novel coronavirus creates a much more intense inflammatory response in the body than the flu. In part, doctors and researchers believe the immune system goes into overdrive, harming many of the cells that were not infected.

“The virus overwhelms the system, causing blood clotting, causing effects on the cytokine system which then causes more of a flurry of inflammation in the small tissues in the blood vessels and scarring and having those long-lasting changes.” (:26)

Dr. Martin says COVID-19 can spread more quickly because there is no vaccine and therefore little immunity within the population.

“It just spreads faster because it can. We have seen that one or two individuals in a community turns into 10 or 15 and that 10 or 15 turns into 1,000 and so on and so on. So, it’s a highly contagious virus.” (:19)

Looking at data from the six months of the last flu season and the six months of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus has resulted in 10 times more deaths.

So, to me it is a much more deadly virus. Is it because it’s new and it does overwhelm the body differently? Probably so, but that’s the reality. Right now we are dealing with a very deadly infection.” (:15)