

Holiday Gatherings During a Pandemic (*Interview Transcripts*)

Cindy Deuser, MSHA, BSN, RN, Director of Quality and Safety, OSF HealthCare

“I would still advise that the guests that you offer into your home, you make sure that they are wearing a mask. I would still try to distance yourself six feet from your visitors. Probably the only exception to that would be if your company, your visitors, are within your cohort of family that you have always remained with.” (:23)

Cindy Deuser, MSHA, BSN, RN, Director of Quality and Safety, OSF HealthCare

“Trust the people you’re going to be gathering with. Know their habits. Ensure, or have them ensure you, that they have been careful outside of your presence – that they are masking and distancing and using good hand hygiene. And if they are feeling sick, encourage them to stay home and take care of themselves.” (:23)

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“You want to just continue observing for symptoms – fever, coughing, feeling short of breath. Making sure that you are diligently using hand washing, hand hygiene. And monitor yourself for at least ten days. Given the ten days, if you were to have a contagion it will present itself within that period of time.” (:23)

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“If you find yourself developing symptoms, even if they are a little bit minor you might think they’re not too much, I wouldn’t wait too long. Don’t wait more than a couple days and then call your provider and let them know what your symptoms are, and most probably they will ask you to get a COVID test.” (:17)

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“It really is key not to let your guard down. We know that there’s been an influx recently of what we call a high positivity rate in the area. And it’s not only in the Metro Region, but it really is throughout all of the state of Illinois – and we need to make sure that we’re diligent.” (:20)