

## **New Treatment Available for High Risk COVID-19 Patients – soundbite transcripts**

**\*\*\*SOT\*\*\***

**Dr. Mark Meeker, Vice President of Physician Services, OSF HealthCare**

On what BAM is

“BAM is a monoclonal antibody, and what that is is antibodies are a protein that our body makes to fight foreign invaders. So we isolate this antibody that we know fights the COVID virus, and we’re able to reproduce it in the lab and then use it to treat patients as though they made the antibody themselves.”

(:21)

**\*\*\*SOT\*\*\***

**Dr. Mark Meeker, Vice President of Physician Services, OSF HealthCare**

On getting EUA

“We were able to take a small group of people, take a look at them – these high risk people – show that they ended up in the hospital less often, show that they had no major side effects, and based on that we got the emergency use authorization for this small group of people.” (:14)

**\*\*\*SOT\*\*\***

**Dr. Brian Curtis, Vice President of Clinical Specialty Services, OSF HealthCare**

On BAM hopes

“My hope is that we see a drop in hospitalization within these high risk categories. The general population overall doesn’t have a high risk of being admitted to the hospital. The categories that the EUA has selected are the patients that we have seen historically over the last eight months have a higher risk of having a bad outcome from COVID, having a more prolonged course, and getting admitted to the hospital. And so that’s why we’re targeting this population, not a general population.”

**\*\*\*SOT\*\*\***

**Dr. Mark Meeker, Vice President of Physician Services, OSF HealthCare**

On avoiding capacity

“Other diseases aren’t going away because COVID is here. So people still need treatment for other illnesses. People still need surgeries. They still need procedures, they need screenings. They get sick with other diseases. So we need capacity to take care of them. We can’t afford for our hospitals to totally fill up with COVID, because then we can’t take care of other people. So I am really, really hopeful that this antibody indeed lowers the progression of disease in this high risk population so we can keep our hospitals out of full capacity.” (:29)