

Soundbite Script – COVID’s Impact on the Flu

Dr. Syed Zaidi, Family Practice, OSF HealthCare

“Flu cases have been significantly down this year. We anticipated that, but we prepared for the worst. The important message of getting your vaccination for the flu was high priority in communities. The numbers that have been down have been largely due to the number of vaccinations through community healthcare systems and community pharmacies.”

Dr. Syed Zaidi, Family Practice, OSF HealthCare

“Typically immunization rates increase around November to December and that’s been the case this year as well. However we see flu cases rise post-holiday season. Right when people are getting back from the holiday, family gatherings – January, February is when we’re usually harder hit.”

Dr. Syed Zaidi, Family Practice, OSF HealthCare

“Typically, fevers, cough, colds, runny nose, are on our radar all the time now. I think the number of testing might increase almost proportionate to COVID testing, but the number of positive cases come back for flu are unprecedentedly low. Have I seen flu cases in my office, yes? Would I say weekly, no? Perhaps on average once a month at least in one small office like mine.”

Dr. Syed Zaidi, Family Practice, OSF HealthCare

“When we start to value our health day to day and we start to worry about our vulnerable whether it’s our children or our parents, we tend to make more sound, knowledgeable decisions and part of that decision is making sure your preventative care is met and that includes vaccinations.”

Dr. Syed Zaidi, Family Practice, OSF HealthCare

“Flu season continues and we will see pattern of peak after the holiday season. It’s the utmost importance that we continue to vaccinate and get your flu shot, typically the vulnerable – the younger and the elderly – and we all hope and pray that we will continue to be safe from whatever ails us as a society.”