

Staying Vigilant after Vaccination (*Interview Transcripts*)

Bill Walsh, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, OSF HealthCare Little Company of Mary Medical Center

“Ninety-five percent means out of every 100 there are still five people that could get significant COVID illness, so there are still possibilities for COVID illness among the vaccinated. Bear that in mind when you are at work, when you are at home, when you are out shopping, when you are thinking about going to a gathering – and continue to keep the gatherings small.” (:26)

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“At this point, there is no herd immunity. So while the people who are vaccinated still need to wear masks, those who are unvaccinated also still need to wear masks and this will stay in effect until most of our population is immunized and we have herd immunity – which means there are so many people who are immunized that we can’t really spread the virus well and the virus can’t get a stronghold on us. We won’t know that until we see the numbers going down significantly.” (:35)

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“This is a safe and very effective vaccine and the more people we get vaccinated, the sooner we can stop the precautions. But at this time, continue to wash your hands, wear your mask, and watch your distance.” (:15)