

Effectiveness of the COVID-19 Vaccine *(Interview Transcripts)*

Doug Kasper, M.D., Infectious Disease Specialist, OSF HealthCare

“Disease processes that younger generations have only heard in film are still present in the minds of older generations. Polio is not a condition we see in the hospital because of vaccination. Smallpox is not a disease process that is part of our generation – it has been eradicated by vaccination. We have worldwide endeavors to try to control serious illness by vaccine that have been ongoing for decades.” (:29)

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“I think that’s an important point – that when receiving the vaccine, immunity is not conferred instantly. It isn’t even conferred within the first week or two after the vaccines are received. We’re looking more at two to four weeks post vaccine for the individual to have the most effect.” (:20)

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“We expect the public health measures of social distancing, masking, and hand washing to be part of the success of the vaccines. I think that’s very important for people to understand because the vaccine, when it’s administered, is an individual benefit – but our population does not achieve the full benefit of vaccines until everyone who should and can receive a vaccine has had the opportunity to receive it.” (:28)

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“When society as a whole puts their strength behind something, the timeframe can move up much more rapidly. And so while you have seen locally scientific communities, this is a worldwide response. You have donations coming from very large foundations. You have governments putting a stop to other scientific endeavors to turn their entire response to this. So the output you are seeing is a coordinated output to a group of people as a whole trying to solve a problem.” (:28)

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“Modifications to the vaccine are already underway. For example, Moderna has announced that they are trialing an updated booster that looks at the variant strains – and this is similar to how we have approached Influenza in the past. You notice changes in the virus, you update the vaccine to confer protection. The difference now is that the timeframe this is being done on is unheard of for how we have approached viral infections – in a positive way.” (:29)