

Dangerous flu complications in children (Broadcast)

INTRO:

AS FLU CASES CONTINUE TO RISE – DOCTORS ARE SEEING A TROUBLING INCREASE IN SEVERE... AND SOMETIMES LIFE-THREATENING COMPLICATIONS... PARTICULARLY IN CHILDREN.

WHILE INFLUENZA IS OFTEN DISMISSED AS A ROUTINE SEASONAL ILLNESS... MEDICAL EXPERTS WARN IT CAN LEAD TO INFECTIONS THAT AFFECT THE LUNGS... BRAIN... HEART AND OTHER VITAL ORGANS.

TAKE VO

THE MAIN REASON FOR THE UPTICK? NOT EVEN A QUARTER OF THE POPULATION IN ILLINOIS HAS RECEIVED THEIR FLU SHOTS THIS SEASON... ACCORDING TO DOCTOR MUSTAFA BAKIR (buh-KEER) – A PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST WITH OSF HEALTHCARE.

HE SAYS THE FLU'S ABILITY TO DAMAGE THE BODY'S NATURAL DEFENSES IS WHAT MAKES IT ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS. FOR EXAMPLE – IF THE VIRUS REACHES THE EARS... AN EAR INFECTION CAN OCCUR... WHICH HAPPENS IN ROUGHLY THREE PERCENT OF PATIENTS... HE SAYS.

TAKE SOT | DR. MUSTAFA BAKIR | PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST | OSF HEALTHCARE

"Influenza is one of the severe viral illnesses in small kids and all vulnerable patients who are immunocompromised or have chronic diseases," Dr. Bakir says. "Because it disrupts the mucosal barriers which are considered to be the first defense mechanism of the body."

VO TAG

DR. BAKIR SAYS IN PATIENTS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL FOR INFLUENZA... ONE THIRD OF THEM ARE GOING TO HAVE SEVERE PNEUMONIA. UP TO TEN PERCENT OF THEM WILL HAVE SOME NEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMS AND DISEASES... LIKE FEBRILE SEIZURES. THE MOST ROBUST WAY TO PROTECT KIDS FROM THESE COMPLICATIONS... DR. BAKIR SAYS... IS THROUGH GETTING THE FLU VACCINE.