

BROADCAST- RSV vaccine offers protection for people at risk

ANCHOR LEAD IN:

RSV MAY LOOK LIKE A COMMON COLD, BUT HEALTH EXPERTS SAY IT CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS ILLNESS, HOSPITALIZATION AND EVEN DEATH FOR PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK.

DOCTOR TALHA KHAN WITH OSF HEALTHCARE SAYS THE RESPIRATORY VIRUS CAN AFFECT PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, BUT YOUNG INFANTS AND OLDER ADULTS FACE THE GREATEST RISK OF SEVERE COMPLICATIONS.

FOR ADULTS, THE RSV VACCINE IS RECOMMENDED FOR EVERYONE AGE 75 AND OLDER. PEOPLE BETWEEN AGES 50 AND 74 MAY ALSO QUALIFY IF THEY HAVE CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS SUCH AS ASTHMA, COPD, HEART DISEASE OR IF THEY CURRENTLY SMOKE.

WHILE MANY PEOPLE ARE FAMILIAR WITH ANNUAL FLU AND COVID-19 SHOTS, DR. KHAN SAYS SOME OLDER ADULTS HAVE NOT HEARD AS MUCH ABOUT THE RSV VACCINE.

SOT-DR. TALHA KHAN

"A FEW OF MY PATIENTS HAVE KIND OF BROUGHT UP THAT, 'OH, THAT'S ONE OF THE VACCINES I'VE NEVER HEARD OF,'" SAYS DR. KHAN. "BUT, AGAIN, IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT CAN CAUSE THOSE SEVERE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS, [INCLUDING] PNEUMONIA, AND POTENTIALLY EVEN LEAD TO DEATH. SO, IF WE CAN STOP THAT OR STOP YOU FROM GETTING A SERIOUS INFECTION WITH A ONE-TIME VACCINE, THEN WHY NOT JUST GET THAT DONE." (:23)

DR. KHAN SAYS THAT'S ONE REASON IT'S IMPORTANT TO TALK WITH A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ABOUT WHETHER THE ONE-TIME VACCINE IS RIGHT FOR YOU.

ANCHOR TAG:

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, OSF ONCALL OFFERS A FREE AT-HOME MONITORING SERVICE FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS UP TO AGE FIVE WHO HAVE RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES, INCLUDING RSV. THE PROGRAM INCLUDES AN AT-HOME CARE KIT, REAL-TIME CHAT SUPPORT AND, IF NEEDED, A VIDEO VISIT WITH A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.