

Video-Audio Soundbite Transcript-Delta Variant Concerns

Dr. Robert Ayers, Occupational Health physician, OSF HealthCare

The delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is the most transmissible and may cause more severe illness and a higher risk of hospitalization.

“The cases that we’re seeing, they’re younger, they’re sicker just because the virus seems to be a little more contagious. Whether I’m able to shed more virus out of my nose, and with respiratory droplets, it’s a higher concentration of virus so I’m able to spread more with this variant than with some of the other, earlier variants.” (:20)

Dr. Ayers says anyone who is not vaccinated is taking an unnecessary risk.

“We know that the vaccines seem to be controlling this virus variant. Even though it’s concerning, it’s still more of a concern for the unvaccinated population.” (:14)

Dr. Ayers says younger people don’t feel a sense of urgency to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

“Younger people tend not to get vaccinated anyway for other diseases, (including) flu. So, it is a concern that yes, you are vulnerable and yes, this variant seems to be affecting your age group and it’s time now to make a decision about what you’re doing to do going forward,” he advises. (:23)