

Endemic as a COVID-19 Endgame – interview transcripts

SOT

Lori Grooms, Director of Infection Prevention, OSF HealthCare

“We have seen spikes. We've seen a couple of waves, really about three major waves with coronavirus. And we'll see fewer and fewer of those, and we won't see the large numbers that we were experiencing.”

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Lori Grooms, Director of Infection Prevention, OSF HealthCare

“Endemic means that it is normally circulating and something you would expect to see in that area or that population. Epidemic is when it is at a higher than normal (range), or it is increasing and it generally is tied to one area or a smaller group of areas. A pandemic is an epidemic at the highest proportions, meaning that it's traveling the globe.”

SOT

Lori Grooms, Director of Infection Prevention, OSF HealthCare

“The easiest way to explain it is to look at the flu of 1918. That really took about two years before it became a normal circulating strain, and we're coming up on two years. We are still seeing some new strains coming out, and that has to do with how fast the virus can change and replicate; how fast it can reproduce. So it will be about two years to two and a half years, and then we'll see it kind of calm down and become normal after enough people have been exposed.”

SOT

Lori Grooms, Director of Infection Prevention, OSF HealthCare

“The more people we can have vaccinated, the faster we get that immunity in place. Also, vaccination tends to be a more a more effective immunity. It's five times stronger than natural immunity. Natural immunity tends to wane faster and is geared more towards the strain that the person was exposed to, whereas our vaccination is kind of a broader overall immunity looking for the spikes that are on the coronavirus.”