

## Looking Back to Get Ahead: One Year of COVID Vaccines – interview transcripts

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**Dr. Stephen Hippler, Chief Clinical Officer, OSF HealthCare**

“I liken it to the landing on the moon many, many years ago when the entire scientific community was focused on one goal. And when all those brilliant minds around the world, not just the United States, are focused on a single problem, really wonderful and great things can happen. I think the fact that we got a COVID vaccine so quickly, it went into mass production and distribution, and now over 300 million doses have been given in the United States is really a testament to the dedication and focus of our scientists and all the folks who support them logistically to get it done and get it into the arms of people.”

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**Dr. Stephen Hippler, Chief Clinical Officer, OSF HealthCare**

“This continues to be a pandemic of the unvaccinated. Yes, those who have had two doses sometimes get hospitalized, but they're typically not as sick. They don't need a ventilator and they have a much lower likelihood of dying. So it honestly is a little frustrating that this pandemic continues amongst the unvaccinated when there is a really good vaccine available to knock this down. I don't think we want to go into a third summer and then start looking at a fourth winter of COVID.”

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**Dr. Stephen Hippler, Chief Clinical Officer, OSF HealthCare**

“A year from now my hope is that more people are vaccinated, and that we'll have a couple oral pills available to treat early COVID. I think this will honestly become something that is always there; it'll never go away. But it's something we can easily recognize, test for, treat early with medication and have vaccine for that hopefully more people will avail themselves of. And with that, I think the incidence will go down.”