

TRANSCRIPT OF SOUND BITES FROM: PRITISH TOSH, M.D. (Pronounced prih-TEESH tawsh)

Title: Dr. Pritish Tosh

Mayo Clinic Infectious Disease Specialist

**/// SOUND BITE - DR. PRITISH TOSH ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A UNIVERSAL FLU VACCINE**

**“They may be helpful if it’s more targeted to prevent infection from a lot of different kinds of influenza infection viruses, a lot of strains that shift between years and even within years. And so there’s a lot of research going on looking at some of these other options, in terms of our target for the influenza vaccine. Some of these things include the matrix protein, the nucleoprotein, also another part of the hemagglutinin, the stalk, that tends to be very well conserved, although it does not generate a lot of antibodies in natural infection. And so right now there seems to be a good amount of basic science, animal data, that suggests that at least this is a possible and something we need to explore further. Right now this is just really good news for animals, but hopefully we’ll be able to translate this into a universal influenza vaccine that we give once a year, once every 10 years, perhaps once in a lifetime depending how well it works, that would be able to protect people from all different strains of influenza. Right now we’re still in the early phases of this as a scientific community, but certainly, we know that we need new influenza vaccines, so we have something that’s going to protect everybody, every time and every season. TRT 1:23**

**/// SOUND BITE - DR. PRITISH TOSH ON THE DANGERS OF INFLUENZA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING VACCINATED**

**“I think there are a couple of things I want people to take from this. First of all, there’s a lot of research going on for developing new influenza vaccines, those that might be able to provide better protection for, perhaps, people at extremes of age or provide longer protection; perhaps between influenza seasons, even as the influenza virus changes. But, I also want people to know that there is an influenza vaccine that currently exists and it’s pretty good. It’s safe and it’s effective. You know, I get my influenza vaccine every year and I encourage other people to do the same.” TRT :34**

**/// SOUND BITE - DR. PRITISH TOSH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING VACCINATED WITH THE EXISTING VACCINE**

**“Influenza is a real killer. It kills tens of thousands of Americans each year, either directly or through its complications. And we really only have one great way in terms of prevention and that is with influenza vaccine. TRT :15**