



Transcript from

## **COVID-19 Testing Toolkit Webinar Series: Lessons Learned Implementing a Testing Strategy for a Pandemic Wedding**

**April 19, 2022**

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00:00:05.250 --> 00:00:17.789

Andrea Lapp: Welcome to today's webinar covert 19 testing toolkit webinar series lessons learned implementing a testing strategy for a pandemic wedding talk to her GG grow involved will now begin.

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00:00:19.470 --> 00:00:28.860

Gigi Gronvall: Thank you for joining us today and she's gone fall a senior scholar at Johns Hopkins Center for health, security and associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg school of public health.

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00:00:29.370 --> 00:00:46.770

Gigi Gronvall: Today is our sixth installment of the webinar series on coven 19 testing strategies and best practices from selected organizational leaders this webinar is part of our senators new coven it testing toolkit which is available online will put the link in the chat.

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00:00:47.880 --> 00:00:58.110

Gigi Gronvall: The toolkit we aim to provide essential information for organizations of all sizes, seeking to develop or adapt their coven 19 testing strategies to fit their testing needs.

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00:00:58.920 --> 00:01:06.870

Gigi Gronvall: Whether taking a test prescribed by your doctor or choosing a test for your employees it's important to choose the right type of tests, provide the most useful information.

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00:01:07.200 --> 00:01:15.360

Gigi Gronvall: We provide information about testing services, as well as individual tests and their specificity and accuracies so that you can.

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00:01:16.260 --> 00:01:28.800

Gigi Gronvall: help to you can pick a test that fits the strategies and test that fit your needs this project is funded by light of hell philanthropies and the Gordon and Betty more foundation and after.

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00:01:29.550 --> 00:01:38.190

Gigi Gronvall: We have our session today, we will answer as many questions as possible from the audience, so please submit your questions in the Q amp a box.

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00:01:38.820 --> 00:01:46.170

Gigi Gronvall: And we will get to as many of them as possible, so today we are talking with Dr my nose Jane Jane is an infectious disease.

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00:01:46.740 --> 00:01:52.320

Gigi Gronvall: physician he's a writer he's an international leader and health care quality improvement and he's a philanthropist.

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00:01:52.620 --> 00:02:05.580

Gigi Gronvall: he's the founder and President of infectious disease practice mid South infectious disease associates with 10 providers who care for the infectious disease needs of over 25% of the patient load in the memphis metropolitan area.

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00:02:06.090 --> 00:02:12.540

Gigi Gronvall: He is board certified in infectious diseases, you actively practices in person and on telemedicine.

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00:02:12.900 --> 00:02:21.000

Gigi Gronvall: At the in the mid South at Baptist memorial hospitals and Methodist hospitals he's a clinical associate professor at university of Tennessee.

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00:02:21.570 --> 00:02:38.610

Gigi Gronvall: memphis and rollin School of Public Health at emory University in Atlanta, and we, as you can tell he's extremely well qualified and as here to tell us about his experiences in implementing a covert testing strategy for a pandemic wedding so Dr Dane over to you.

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00:02:39.360 --> 00:02:42.870

Manoj Jain: Great Thank you gigi and and thank everyone for joining me.

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00:02:44.310 --> 00:02:55.470

Manoj Jain: I have some slides and some wedding pictures that i'd like to share, but she out i'll tell you this this pandemic has had professional.

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00:02:56.520 --> 00:03:02.670

Manoj Jain: has had a professional toll on so many of us, but when it becomes very, very personal.

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00:03:03.240 --> 00:03:22.050

Manoj Jain: and personal in people getting sick, yes, at one stage, but when it comes to events which are somewhat voluntary that that we have to make decisions on like weddings anniversary parties bar mitzvahs gathering gatherings of what should we do.

19

00:03:23.160 --> 00:03:36.720

Manoj Jain: that's that's been a huge challenge, and this has certainly been a big challenge for me and and what happened over the course of the past year and a half is a journey, I want to share i'll.

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00:03:37.650 --> 00:03:43.530

Manoj Jain: there's a piece that I wrote I write for the Washington Post I write for the USA today for the Tennessee.

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00:03:45.240 --> 00:03:52.200

Manoj Jain: Group and and for Yahoo news have a piece there about how I.

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00:03:53.280 --> 00:04:01.560

Manoj Jain: planned and work through the wedding of my daughter, so it all began Memorial Day in.

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00:04:06.090 --> 00:04:21.120

Manoj Jain: So that's when I kill a proposed to my daughter SUP SUP dummies dreams and and we thought everything was going to be fine the wedding was planned for Memorial Day in 2020.

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00:04:21.960 --> 00:04:35.460

Manoj Jain: And then we saw things fall apart in March, April and we knew that wasn't going to happen, and so we said okay planet for six months down the line.

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00:04:36.840 --> 00:04:39.900

Manoj Jain: And then that didn't happen either.

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00:04:41.280 --> 00:04:54.030

Manoj Jain: And then we said okay let's plan it for January 29 2022 and we were like this is gonna work everything in the numbers will, as you know, we're looking really good.

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00:04:55.230 --> 00:05:16.800

Manoj Jain: But then something else happened the oma crime variant so let me take you through that journey of what happened and and how I, as an infectious disease doctor advisor to the Mayor the Mayor of Memphis Jim Stricklin on March of.

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00:05:17.970 --> 00:05:26.760

Manoj Jain: 2020 asked me to come to City Hall and talk about coven two days later he hired me as a consultant to the city as well.

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00:05:27.660 --> 00:05:34.710

Manoj Jain: And I've been working with him for over two and a half years, and the whole city and the task force leading that task force.

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00:05:35.340 --> 00:05:51.540

Manoj Jain: And so, let me share with you in the next 1015 minutes, the journey that I took and if I will i'll share my slides, and let me know just if you can see him because you'll get to see some good wedding pictures as well Oh, are you able to.

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00:05:51.600 --> 00:05:52.620

Gigi Gronvall: see my slides.

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00:05:52.950 --> 00:05:54.390

Manoj Jain: Yes, wait alright.

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00:05:55.710 --> 00:06:02.310

Manoj Jain: So, preventing covert at large events and my daughter's wedding during the oma concert.

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00:06:04.440 --> 00:06:14.970

Manoj Jain: You know the first fundamental question that we have to ask is oh post covert or Perry covert or during covert I don't know where we are in the pandemic but.

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00:06:15.360 --> 00:06:20.790

Manoj Jain: That question is, can we plan personal large events without concern for code.

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00:06:21.180 --> 00:06:32.160

Manoj Jain: And that challenge comes in, is that we don't know when there will be a search right The numbers are really low across the country In most places but hey we plan six.

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00:06:32.580 --> 00:06:44.790

Manoj Jain: Months a year, plus ahead we don't know what will happen, and more so, is there a way that we can be reassured that we can do a safe event and so.

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00:06:45.810 --> 00:06:47.340

Manoj Jain: What happened was the following.

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00:06:49.170 --> 00:06:58.410

Manoj Jain: You know these waves so well as to so many of us right, this is the wave for Memphis the orange line is a seven day average.

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00:06:58.920 --> 00:07:14.730

Manoj Jain: And we had gone through these waves and now we were doing it was during October November timeframe when things were very good and we thought, yes, we can plan for a wedding wedding was planned for January 29.

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00:07:16.020 --> 00:07:16.890

Manoj Jain: and well.

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00:07:18.120 --> 00:07:29.490

Manoj Jain: All through December and early early part of January we saw this huge surge of cases, and likewise hospitalizations as well.

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00:07:32.130 --> 00:07:46.140

Manoj Jain: I got together with my kids with my daughter and son in law and during Christmas and the week before I had a conversation with them, and I said, you know.

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00:07:47.190 --> 00:07:49.230

Manoj Jain: I think this is not going to be possible.

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00:07:50.280 --> 00:07:55.380

Manoj Jain: In fact I think we're really going to be risking things well.

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00:07:56.490 --> 00:08:09.690

Manoj Jain: I thought I was able to convince them but children, you know it was hard and my daughter said something that like completely changed me said dad.

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00:08:10.740 --> 00:08:12.540

Manoj Jain: If you if you don't do it now.

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00:08:14.040 --> 00:08:15.450

Manoj Jain: we're not we're not again.

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00:08:18.750 --> 00:08:36.930

Manoj Jain: So, so that whole statement made me think oh my gosh I have to plan something different i've got to take all my skill sets pulled them together and see if we can do a wedding oh during the week.

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00:08:38.220 --> 00:08:39.390

Manoj Jain: So this is what we did.

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00:08:40.500 --> 00:08:51.840

Manoj Jain: This is the strategy that we put in place, we said look we're going to do communication really important vaccination masking and then testing.

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00:08:54.090 --> 00:08:57.390

Manoj Jain: But first we had to pull up together a team.

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00:08:58.590 --> 00:09:05.850

Manoj Jain: what's really important is that we needed cooperation from a whole bunch of people and we had friends and relatives in the family.

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00:09:07.110 --> 00:09:11.880

Manoj Jain: And we had a team leader out myself.

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00:09:13.110 --> 00:09:20.340

Manoj Jain: i've been working for the county and the city, the mayor calls me the doctor outside of memphis.

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00:09:21.120 --> 00:09:29.910

Manoj Jain: The reporters have done that put together a long piece on me as well, so we got our family members who are doctors.

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00:09:30.360 --> 00:09:43.080

Manoj Jain: Three of them got together we had logistics people to help us medical systems from my lab as well, and then we got a laboratory with PCR testing that that was readily available as well.

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00:09:44.820 --> 00:09:58.590

Manoj Jain: And then, what we did was we developed a strategic document now you people thought I was crazy like what are you doing this for a wedding but now sha Jane we change our wedding and we have a testing protocol document.

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00:09:59.130 --> 00:10:08.730

Manoj Jain: And in it, we had lots and lots of details defining what a positive test how many days after and so forth, and so, then we began with communication.

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00:10:09.630 --> 00:10:34.050

Manoj Jain: We did zoom calls it was strategically different for people who were out of town and for in town so on January 9 was for other town guests 16th was for for in town guests and the messaging was different for them and the wedding was on January 29 then there was masking.

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00:10:35.370 --> 00:10:37.170

Manoj Jain: masking was a challenge.

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00:10:38.220 --> 00:10:52.110

Manoj Jain: Why, because people didn't want to mask and you know when we gather together and if you've been to an Indian wedding it is food and food and food at all of the events and so.

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00:10:52.590 --> 00:11:00.720

Manoj Jain: We had to figure that out on how to do masking, and so we said look masking is recommended, but we did not make it mandatory.

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00:11:01.290 --> 00:11:17.430

Manoj Jain: And if, when everyone tested negative with a PCR We said that, yes, we could take off the masks so we had an encouraged masking at the initial events until the PCR came back.



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00:11:18.540 --> 00:11:19.680

Manoj Jain: But the biggest.

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00:11:21.000 --> 00:11:26.400

Manoj Jain: Strategic steps that we took was testing, we had a flow chart.

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00:11:27.480 --> 00:11:34.050

Manoj Jain: For the whole testing protocol, and what we did was people who are coming out of town.

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00:11:35.220 --> 00:11:50.010

Manoj Jain: We said that you need to do a rapid antigen test at home, so we said get one from the store at that time, the administration was not giving and sending three tests so.

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00:11:50.400 --> 00:12:08.640

Manoj Jain: In fact, I was going to the local pharmacy four months before and picking up two kids for kids and had collected over 200 testing kits at the House just because it was so unpredictable.

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00:12:09.480 --> 00:12:23.280

Manoj Jain: And so we asked guests to do a rapid test 24 hours before and then, when they arrived, we had them do a rapid and a PCR and we worked with the lab.

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00:12:24.120 --> 00:12:33.030

Manoj Jain: To get a very rapid turnaround those who were in memphis the wedding was in memphis those who are in memphis we asked them to either go to the.

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00:12:34.200 --> 00:12:52.500

Manoj Jain: laboratory to the lab 24 to 48 hours before and get a PCR or come to the hotel and get the PCR surprisingly surprisingly everyone agreed to the protocol now some who didn't.

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00:12:53.700 --> 00:13:10.530

Manoj Jain: were not able to come so i'll give you an example i'll had to one friend and one cousin who decided that they did not want to be vaccinated so vaccination was a requirement everyone had to have their two vaccines.

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00:13:11.610 --> 00:13:23.790

Manoj Jain: But they were two individuals who said they did not want to be vaccinated they were close family, friends and cousins and my daughter called them and she said.

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00:13:25.350 --> 00:13:26.670

Manoj Jain: i'm sorry you can't come.

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00:13:28.410 --> 00:13:36.690

Manoj Jain: I thought that was very courageous, I was trying to work around it as politically correct in the fact with your degree.

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00:13:37.980 --> 00:13:50.610

Manoj Jain: But she said, know that we've just got to be strict and we're going to beat that way and so at the hotel when people were arriving several lab workers from my office.

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00:13:51.960 --> 00:14:00.210

Manoj Jain: Did the PCR and testing we had everything set up the hotel was extremely Nice in allowing us to be able to do that.

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00:14:01.830 --> 00:14:12.570

Manoj Jain: What we found was yeah they were positives so I haven't shared how many people were at the wedding GG you know, an Indian was he has a lot of people.

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00:14:13.860 --> 00:14:33.000

Manoj Jain: There were over 800 people on our guest list initially we cut it down to about 400 450 400 came they were tested at various various stages and 10 were positive.

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00:14:34.230 --> 00:14:48.030

Manoj Jain: Now, imagine if those 10 came to the wedding and what a super special event that could have easily have been now some had mild symptoms.

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00:14:49.110 --> 00:14:50.760

Manoj Jain: And some had no symptoms.

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00:14:52.590 --> 00:14:59.070

Manoj Jain: Some tested positive at the rapid test when they arrived and some at a PCR tests as well.

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00:15:00.240 --> 00:15:11.250

Manoj Jain: We were doing CT values cycle time values, so we were able to see for those who are positive if we could get them in if their cycle time it was.

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00:15:12.900 --> 00:15:21.060

Manoj Jain: My wedding day or everyone was PCR negative and we were able to have the masks off for large part.

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00:15:22.950 --> 00:15:34.560

Manoj Jain: But i'll say share this as I finish up the greatest fear and challenge was what if the bride and the groom very infected.

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00:15:35.880 --> 00:15:48.300

Manoj Jain: So what we did was when my daughter came Oh, she lives in Boston she's a lawyer, my son in law is a aerospace engineer has worked for NASA.

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00:15:49.230 --> 00:16:04.110

Manoj Jain: And she came to memphis couple of weeks before what we did was we essentially put her in quarantine she had a bedroom she was there, and she was not.

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00:16:05.340 --> 00:16:14.250

Manoj Jain: being engaged with any family members, even when she was eating, she would be eating in a different room from us.

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00:16:15.360 --> 00:16:22.260

Manoj Jain: When ever she would be engaging with us, she would mask there was an occasion where she was.

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00:16:23.370 --> 00:16:42.000

Manoj Jain: Having a trial of her makeup I didn't know, there was a bank like that that happens before wedding but I found out i'll and and she was meeting with the with the the Salon person, and then I asked her do you know if they're tested.

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00:16:43.260 --> 00:17:08.370

Manoj Jain: And my daughter said no, I don't know, and so I went her appointment was in the evening I went in the morning I tested the Salon person and had that test done and only when negative did I let my daughter be with anyone before the wedding That was the scariest part.

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00:17:09.390 --> 00:17:11.880

Manoj Jain: But then another event happened.

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00:17:13.230 --> 00:17:27.060

Manoj Jain: Just the day before the wedding when she complained dad I have a sore throat, I was like no, this cannot be true, we know sore throat is one of the symptoms of of covert.

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00:17:28.170 --> 00:17:49.620

Manoj Jain: She says, but that i'm doing okay now i'll tell you this as a child, she got sore throat, very often, we were about to we had seen an empty doctor to get her tonsils out and we knew that she wasn't sleeping that much right before the wedding things going on, oh and, and so I was like.

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00:17:50.730 --> 00:17:56.730

Manoj Jain: This is going to be really bad this is that i'll tell you that was probably the hardest moment.

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00:17:57.840 --> 00:18:07.140

Manoj Jain: That that I went through that to see what we want to do, and I said, you know what let's see how you're feeling.

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00:18:08.220 --> 00:18:16.320

Manoj Jain: drink some warm water and let's rest up and by the afternoon if you're not better then we're going to test.

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00:18:18.270 --> 00:18:28.920

Manoj Jain: By the afternoon, through a mask was shut told it to wear a mask with that time she was much better she gave me a thumbs up and we were like we're on the road to the way.

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00:18:29.760 --> 00:18:39.840

Manoj Jain: And so, yes, what if one of one of the pride of the groom become infected so we've got to keep them isolated, so all things.

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00:18:40.500 --> 00:18:53.250

Manoj Jain: i'll finish up you know we we did a post wedding survey about what they felt about the whole testing and majority 75% felt that they they felt safe.

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00:18:53.700 --> 00:19:07.380

Manoj Jain: Coming to memphis being at the wedding, I imagine, this was at the peak of the oma Kron search and we it's hard to also cancel these events, as you well know.

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00:19:08.010 --> 00:19:22.290

Manoj Jain: We had the vendors from all over the country the for the food the vendor was coming from New Jersey, the police were coming from Chicago the photographer was coming from Boston I mean.

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00:19:22.920 --> 00:19:30.930

Manoj Jain: They had planned this to the finest detail, but the most important thing was no one tested positive we asked them.

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00:19:32.250 --> 00:19:56.940

Manoj Jain: 6% of the people who responded said they had some mild symptoms, we asked him to get tested they tested and every one of those were negative, and so we felt very assured that it was a safe wedding so all right i'll put on my scientific hat and i'll finish up.

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00:19:58.230 --> 00:20:09.180

Manoj Jain: What do I think of this, this is a sample size of one GG it's not like a scientific study but personal experiences matter anecdotes matter.

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00:20:10.440 --> 00:20:21.450

Manoj Jain: I think we prevented a super special event I think those are real possibilities, even with the vaccination but it's the timing it's the surge.

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00:20:22.470 --> 00:20:40.890

Manoj Jain: That that's why there were so many people if it's if it were not the surge I would not have been that worried and I would not have been as strict with the testing protocols, I think the rapid and the PCR were both helpful and necessary, but i'll say doing the rapid beforehand.

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00:20:41.910 --> 00:20:49.860

Manoj Jain: And all the symptom check and the communication we didn't talk much about this, but cycle times determining if.

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00:20:50.580 --> 00:20:59.640

Manoj Jain: close relatives are have been recently positive, we can check them through cycle times and see if they can attend, because that was the case in few of them.

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00:21:00.330 --> 00:21:16.950

Manoj Jain: Working with the lab for rapid turnaround was there as well, and lastly, we can do events safely I think in in the area of uncertainty with the tools that we have we can do.

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00:21:18.030 --> 00:21:34.860

Manoj Jain: Events safely personal events as well, so with that i'll i'll i'll stop and and and answer questions and and I sort of shared my my experience and journey and i'm glad it went well.

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00:21:35.580 --> 00:21:41.910

Gigi Gronvall: yeah it's the pictures are beautiful and we could wish we could see another two or 300 of them.

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00:21:42.750 --> 00:21:56.370

Gigi Gronvall: But this just for everybody who's listening, please put your questions in the Q amp a box and, yes, the recording will be available afterwards, so if you if you don't get a chance to listen to everything you can you can catch up on it later.

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00:21:57.240 --> 00:22:12.210

Gigi Gronvall: But the notion one question I got before this event was about the venue did you the talks that you had with the with the I assume it was a hotel did you talk to them about ventilation, or any of the things that they could do to make it safer.

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00:22:12.990 --> 00:22:26.880

Manoj Jain: So the venue was the Hilton Hotel so we tried to work and create a bubble as safe as we can we didn't have that many conversations about the.

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00:22:27.330 --> 00:22:36.720

Manoj Jain: ventilation, because those were really not options that we can work to change, even the masking was a difficult conversation.

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00:22:37.710 --> 00:22:51.480

Manoj Jain: They could not lot of their employees were mast most of the time, but again in the environment that we were at they would not mandated to masks.

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00:22:52.110 --> 00:23:10.110

Manoj Jain: To to wear a mask as well, so I think that's a conversation that needs to be had during planning as well, and the vendors will be agreeable we had all the vendors also get tested beforehand.

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00:23:11.250 --> 00:23:27.330

Manoj Jain: But that's again a challenge in individual vendors each have a different opinion about getting tested, because obviously they're afraid they're concerned if they test positive, then the whole event for them.

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00:23:28.650 --> 00:23:40.230

Manoj Jain: It doesn't doesn't work so and my My concern was the same thing, what if what if the the the crew that had come from New Jersey in doing the food.

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00:23:41.250 --> 00:23:43.380

Manoj Jain: If someone turned positive, what do we do.

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00:23:44.130 --> 00:23:55.470

Gigi Gronvall: Right, can you say a little bit more about the CT values and how you use those because that's that is definitely an advanced level first use of the PCR tests.

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00:23:56.100 --> 00:23:57.300

Manoj Jain: Sure, so.

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00:23:58.800 --> 00:24:13.620

Manoj Jain: When we do a PCR test were uncertain machines, they are able to give you a cycle time value what the cycle time value does is it gives you how infectious a particular individual is.

126

00:24:14.250 --> 00:24:30.000

Manoj Jain: And a higher the cycle time value the less infectious and the lower the cycle time value the more infectious that they are or more viral particles meaning less cycles that has to go through to pick up the virus particle.

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00:24:30.450 --> 00:24:37.650

Manoj Jain: The cutoff value is about 35 now what a lot of people say well wait a second you know.

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00:24:38.970 --> 00:24:50.760

Manoj Jain: People really infectious at what level and and should we be changing that that value, and so what we were able to do was that, even if they were reported positive.

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00:24:51.690 --> 00:25:06.120

Manoj Jain: We were able to see if they were at say 32 whereas more often, where one person that infectiousness cut off tends to be then what we said was look you're at that.

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00:25:06.840 --> 00:25:16.230

Manoj Jain: We know that your test is still showing positive but you've got a mask, but you can attend some of the events, especially for close family members.



131

00:25:16.800 --> 00:25:33.270

Manoj Jain: We were able to do that and we were able to over the course of two or three days follow that cycle time and, as a decreased it we knew we were heading in the right direction versus if it were increasing we knew that they were becoming more infectious.

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00:25:34.260 --> 00:25:41.430

Gigi Gronvall: Did you require people to test, even if they had had covered within 90 days I know that's the CDC guidance, but.

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00:25:42.060 --> 00:25:56.280

Manoj Jain: Right so know if they were if they had if they had recently had coated, then what we said was that we within within the past 10 days.

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00:25:57.180 --> 00:26:09.270

Manoj Jain: Then we said that we wouldn't obviously they they would not be able to time in some of that that within the five days, but no, we did not have them all test again within 90 days.

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00:26:10.620 --> 00:26:20.670

Gigi Gronvall: How about there are a lot of questions about the PCR testing in general about yo that it's a logistic speed, especially with the short turnaround time.

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00:26:21.150 --> 00:26:22.680

Gigi Gronvall: And it might not be.

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00:26:22.710 --> 00:26:28.800

Gigi Gronvall: possible for all situations, I how did, how did you manage to get that into place.

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00:26:29.370 --> 00:26:42.180

Manoj Jain: So this is where i'll I think what was required is a collaboration with a local laboratory and I was lucky enough and I don't think everyone can do this easily and.

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00:26:42.870 --> 00:26:54.270

Manoj Jain: And just to keep in mind for the past two and a half years, I had been working with the local labs In fact we were one of the first areas to do pool testing.

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00:26:54.870 --> 00:27:07.800

Manoj Jain: pod testing many of the things that that go on within the lab and and so with poplar healthcare, one of the labs in memphis we have been working together on.

141

00:27:08.460 --> 00:27:23.550

Manoj Jain: For quite some time, and so what we did was had a relationship and worked closely with the lab to make sure that the samples as soon as they were tested, they were careered within.

142

00:27:24.480 --> 00:27:36.480

Manoj Jain: Within hours to the lab and I would say this, that that if there is a surgeon and there's a concern if you work together with a local lab.

143

00:27:37.350 --> 00:27:52.620

Manoj Jain: There are plenty of them that are doing PCR and they will work with you there's an ability to get within 24 hours or less the PCR tests so Oh, I think it's a teamwork and collaboration to make it happen.

144

00:27:53.670 --> 00:28:11.010

Gigi Gronvall: How about rapids so someone asks, can you go into more detail about how you coordinate doing 400 rapid test right before the event, did you have the guests do them at their themselves or in sending photos or did you test everybody on site.

145

00:28:11.340 --> 00:28:30.960

Manoj Jain: yeah so good question, so what we did with the rapids was we had them do them at home, and then we had rapids at at the site now, we did not require people to send in the pictures of a negative test, I know, many people have guests, have done that.

146

00:28:32.160 --> 00:28:40.590

Manoj Jain: And the reason is is you know, on the honor system that right, I mean if guests are going to come and we've asked them.

147

00:28:41.610 --> 00:28:50.970

Manoj Jain: We assume, and I think so rightly so that they will agree to the our requests, which is that you have to get tested.

148

00:28:52.230 --> 00:29:12.510

Manoj Jain: And, and so from that we, we were able to say that look we asked them to question in fact i'll tell you this, this is a is a nice trick when they came in in the reception, we said oh we'll give you your table numbers but just a couple of quick things did you get tested.

149

00:29:14.010 --> 00:29:25.830

Manoj Jain: Right and then we asked you know okay when when your test result was and say oh yeah okay your table number is 14 right so so it didn't make it seemed like that we were.

150

00:29:26.760 --> 00:29:41.160

Manoj Jain: You know just being very regimented in a way we tried to do make it much, much more collegial and, yes, we so I told you, I for a couple of months before the wedding.

151

00:29:41.820 --> 00:30:04.620

Manoj Jain: went and purchased the test, they were \$7 test for the by next they then had gone the price has gone up to 10 to \$14 later on, but I did I did gather a lot of those tests before hand to to make sure that there was ample supply.

152

00:30:06.030 --> 00:30:13.320

Gigi Gronvall: If you just had rapid tests and the PCR wasn't available was an option you considered or is that something you would do.

153

00:30:13.890 --> 00:30:32.580

Manoj Jain: yeah you know I think I think that's an option, I would very much consider and actually if there was not a surge I think I would have been comfortable with that it was it was it was a choice of canceling the wedding or doing something in you know, really, really.

154

00:30:34.320 --> 00:30:56.880

Manoj Jain: aggressive like that level of testing and and honestly, we know so much now just like three four months afterwards, but at that time it was quite unclear how all of this would pan out I had called up many colleagues and friends to see if if they had done personal events.

155

00:30:57.930 --> 00:31:01.680

Manoj Jain: Large personal events right 400 people level events.

156

00:31:02.700 --> 00:31:07.650

Manoj Jain: And and not many or any of them had done it to this level.

157

00:31:09.750 --> 00:31:17.400

Gigi Gronvall: How about given what we know now about leaning immunity and yeah when when people were vaccinated.

158

00:31:17.940 --> 00:31:29.880

Gigi Gronvall: Did you did people will, how did you do that conversation was it like are you up to date on your vaccinations Have you had your booster did you did you go there, did you only require the two vaccines.

159

00:31:30.660 --> 00:31:36.600

Manoj Jain: So we required only the the two vaccines and and the conversation was.

160

00:31:38.430 --> 00:31:53.490

Manoj Jain: When they did the rsvp right they had to answer mandatory question about and that's fairly easy, I think the there were a lot of people, including my parents who felt.

161

00:31:54.240 --> 00:32:03.330

Manoj Jain: Like I was like Overdoing this right they were like Oh, why are you it's like no one's going to come to your daughter's wedding just stop this.

162

00:32:05.430 --> 00:32:11.010

Manoj Jain: And I was like mom you know it doesn't work that way you know the virus has no boundaries.

163

00:32:12.210 --> 00:32:14.580

Manoj Jain: And so I think.

164

00:32:16.230 --> 00:32:22.860

Manoj Jain: Having a conversation with people that those zoom calls made all the difference in the world.

165

00:32:24.240 --> 00:32:39.540

Manoj Jain: I think when they came and they collect the guests i'm saying, and they collectively looked at the reasoning at the why why we were doing what we were doing and and then they subsequently.

166

00:32:40.920 --> 00:32:52.200

Manoj Jain: said, you know it's not that much trouble to go through getting a test and before and then then getting it then they're on and the other part of it was.

167

00:32:52.680 --> 00:33:07.410

Manoj Jain: The level of comfort people had, in fact, I would say majority of the guests, you know, almost all of them had not gone to a wedding or a large gathering until our event that was the first event.

168

00:33:08.310 --> 00:33:27.510

Manoj Jain: For for over two years that they had not gotten together and that's why there was such a sense of relief and comfort in knowing all the tests with her and I guess, in part, they expected that from infectious disease doctor of the father of the bride right but.

169

00:33:27.540 --> 00:33:28.500

yeah I think people.

170

00:33:29.670 --> 00:33:40.350

Gigi Gronvall: need to I mean you've seen many covered patients, and so I think it's it's important to you know, keep in mind for a lot of people, they have not they haven't experienced this.

171

00:33:40.680 --> 00:33:50.190

Manoj Jain: I think I think that's The major challenge, so I work with the mayor's in the county and and neighboring communities and.

172

00:33:50.700 --> 00:34:02.430

Manoj Jain: I think it's hard for leadership and others to phantom what's going on in the icu I would be going into the icu and and every second patient.

173

00:34:03.330 --> 00:34:09.810

Manoj Jain: Is intubated there's a code going on in one unit and the other unit during the surges I.

174

00:34:10.260 --> 00:34:19.170

Manoj Jain: And, and it was hard to explain when I you know would take off all my gear and get on a zoom call with with leadership and say.

175

00:34:19.650 --> 00:34:39.240

Manoj Jain: I don't think you know what's happening in the hospitals and I don't think most people know they see a little bit on the screen with you know fuzzy faces but, honestly, you know what a lot of people, otherwise healthy oh we're dying and that's scary.

176

00:34:41.040 --> 00:34:49.290

Gigi Gronvall: Did you have a plan, what if what if somebody did end up testing positive did you have a strategy for for how to.

177

00:34:50.490 --> 00:34:54.900

Gigi Gronvall: know how to inform them and testing and alerting people who might be at risk.

178

00:34:55.230 --> 00:34:56.670

Manoj Jain: So absolutely so.

179

00:34:58.080 --> 00:35:06.150

Manoj Jain: As I the number showed, there were few people that did test positive and as soon as a test came back I.

180

00:35:07.260 --> 00:35:22.350

Manoj Jain: I went to their I called them up, I told them, I have come to the room and I spoke to them and honestly sincerely, both as a relative a friend or relative at times.

181

00:35:23.100 --> 00:35:33.630

Manoj Jain: it's an infectious disease doctor, as someone who's always also concerned about the whole event and and I said, you know I you can't come to the event.

182

00:35:34.200 --> 00:35:45.870

Manoj Jain: Oh, even after they had traveled far to come and and people understood I you know I think that's what I really found very, very gratifying.

183

00:35:46.200 --> 00:36:00.270

Manoj Jain: People understood that that that was okay that that we have to manage in ways and and we're resilient we will find ways to do things and and and, yes, if someone has to.

184

00:36:01.350 --> 00:36:07.680

Manoj Jain: go through a lot of pain to try to come to the event, and yet they have tested positive.

185

00:36:08.850 --> 00:36:22.110

Manoj Jain: And they couldn't they they were Okay, with it, so I think that conversation was really, really helpful and and people people, the people I had that that they couldn't come live okay with it.

186

00:36:23.460 --> 00:36:32.910

Gigi Gronvall: So during the time when you when you when this wedding took place that was around the time where there was a little bit of doubt, people were having about the rapid tests.

187

00:36:33.300 --> 00:36:46.050

Gigi Gronvall: You do they work was on a con people didn't have ready access to test anyway, so they were so, how did you did you manage to find were you confident in them at that time, it is it's been just.

188

00:36:47.550 --> 00:36:49.200

Gigi Gronvall: They did work with aamir Khan, but.

189

00:36:49.260 --> 00:36:51.870

Gigi Gronvall: yeah did you think about that at the moment.

190

00:36:52.530 --> 00:36:59.430

Manoj Jain: I did and and you know I think we need to really think about battling coven by layering.

191

00:37:00.360 --> 00:37:01.770

Manoj Jain: I don't think there's a one.

192

00:37:01.800 --> 00:37:20.880

Manoj Jain: Size one solution that fits all right, so you have to layer things right so begin with vaccination right, then you have to put in the masking at at at levels where you can right, and then you add the testing with the.

193

00:37:22.260 --> 00:37:39.330

Manoj Jain: antigen testing and then at the PCR testing we layer this, along with the knowledge of the epidemiology, at a given time, at a given variant at the given curve and the service that we're at.

194

00:37:40.380 --> 00:37:49.590

Manoj Jain: Luckily, you know as an infectious disease doctor and someone is advising the city, I mean this was second nature to me and I was able to you know, put it together.

195

00:37:50.100 --> 00:38:02.220

Manoj Jain: fairly quickly to say you know, this is what we have to have to do to follow the strictest of protocols and and and then I and and I had a family that was quite agreeable to.



196

00:38:03.360 --> 00:38:14.160

Manoj Jain: My my requests and and and my push for us all to be safe and and and kudos to my daughter, and my son in law.

197

00:38:15.330 --> 00:38:16.470

Manoj Jain: They they.

198

00:38:18.840 --> 00:38:23.400

Manoj Jain: Once they agreed that and I agreed that we were going to do this.

199

00:38:24.750 --> 00:38:35.250

Manoj Jain: This was a huge task in itself and and they went through with it and they did not protest or or push back at all.

200

00:38:36.120 --> 00:38:49.230

Gigi Gronvall: that's great so there's a question about the the zoom calls like you know we all have so many meetings you know why, why was it more important to have that versus versus an email.

201

00:38:50.670 --> 00:39:07.230

Manoj Jain: So I don't think you can convey the emotions and the uncertainty in an email I just I just don't think that if you just, if you remember during the oma concert during those times.

202

00:39:08.610 --> 00:39:13.860

Manoj Jain: You had all these talking heads i'm one of them to do one.

203

00:39:15.390 --> 00:39:17.670

Manoj Jain: How giving various opinions.

204

00:39:18.690 --> 00:39:37.380

Manoj Jain: Who, we believe, is the one and person who's closest to us, and there were four therefore hundred relatives and friends right we have been together for decades upon decades, I was able to share my collective knowledge.

205

00:39:39.780 --> 00:39:40.680

Manoj Jain: wisdom.

206

00:39:42.270 --> 00:39:57.480

Manoj Jain: To move them towards a safer approach, and I think most people, even if you are not an infectious disease doctor, if you are a a even an ordinary scientifically oriented individual.

207

00:39:58.140 --> 00:40:11.760

Manoj Jain: You can bring that sense of confidence with some you can have a medical person to be with you to to sort of corroborate what you're saying so, if you're doing a wedding you're doing an event.

208

00:40:12.330 --> 00:40:32.490

Manoj Jain: You can build all of that knowledge, when some guests when guests are coming to your event, they will align with your thinking about how we make an event the safest and I think that's what families and friends do, even though they may disagree with it, but that's what they will do.

209

00:40:33.750 --> 00:40:36.330

Gigi Gronvall: How did you handle the under fives.

210

00:40:37.260 --> 00:40:56.610

Manoj Jain: You know by just testing we just had no other option we tested them even even six months old we tested them and it's hard to get them to mask, we know that, but we did not say that you cannot come we said we will test them.

211

00:40:57.930 --> 00:41:03.420

Manoj Jain: And you know it's a family event and and there was a period that we just had to manage.

212

00:41:04.710 --> 00:41:17.700

Gigi Gronvall: One last question, if you if you would, how do you how do you think about the what's your thoughts on the mask mandate drops on planes now and how do you think that's going to affect wedding planning for other people.

213

00:41:18.840 --> 00:41:20.010

Manoj Jain: Oh, I wish.

214

00:41:21.720 --> 00:41:37.440

Manoj Jain: I, I think we need to continue the mass mandates on planes I think that's a terrible idea to give that up, I think we know we don't know enough about the spread of the Ba to variant we just don't know enough about.

215

00:41:38.670 --> 00:41:48.030

Manoj Jain: The spread of covert do vaccinated people at various stages of their illness as infectious as non vaccinated people.

216

00:41:48.660 --> 00:42:06.870

Manoj Jain: We have individuals who are when we did antibody testing 95% of our adult population has either had the coven and antibodies to they're all been vaccinated right So how are they as infectious when they get covered.

217

00:42:08.100 --> 00:42:15.060

Manoj Jain: With there's so much uncertainty masks are very simple and they are very protective.

218

00:42:16.110 --> 00:42:28.380

Manoj Jain: As a doctor i've been going into Corbett patients rooms for two and a half years or more and oh and i've been masking and and luckily call it free so.

219

00:42:29.010 --> 00:42:32.790

Gigi Gronvall: They better work for your line of work they better work absolutely.

220

00:42:33.210 --> 00:42:43.500

Gigi Gronvall: Absolutely well Thank you so much for sharing your wisdom and your beautiful pictures we wish your daughter, and her husband, the very, very best.

221

00:42:43.920 --> 00:42:45.300

Manoj Jain: Thank you susie glad to be here.

222

00:42:45.780 --> 00:42:46.200

Right.