

1
00:00:03,859 --> 00:00:12,960
now it's time for dr. Rachel reports

2
00:00:07,259 --> 00:00:15,570
with dr. Rachel Dunlop and I'm dr. H E

3
00:00:12,960 --> 00:00:18,240
and here we are at the free vaccine

4
00:00:15,570 --> 00:00:20,899
clinic at dragon con 2010 in Atlanta

5
00:00:18,239 --> 00:00:23,788
Georgia and i'm here with Bill Atkinson

6
00:00:20,899 --> 00:00:25,948
hello bill welcome to the skeptic zone

7
00:00:23,789 --> 00:00:29,910
what I'm doing well thank you very much

8
00:00:25,949 --> 00:00:32,039
now you are in immunization from the

9
00:00:29,910 --> 00:00:34,829
Centers for Disease Control the CDC it's

10
00:00:32,039 --> 00:00:37,500
great you're an MD with a master's in

11
00:00:34,829 --> 00:00:40,079
public health yes and you helped to set

12
00:00:37,500 --> 00:00:43,109
up the vaccine clinic here at Dragon Con

13
00:00:40,079 --> 00:00:47,489
yes can you tell me about your role in

14
00:00:43,109 --> 00:00:49,740
setting it up my job day-to-day is

15
00:00:47,490 --> 00:00:55,740
mainly training doctors and nurses how

16
00:00:49,740 --> 00:00:58,710
to give vaccines I met I met Maria

17
00:00:55,740 --> 00:01:01,469
Walters at tam and introduced myself and

18
00:00:58,710 --> 00:01:04,409
she remembered me when she got back here

19
00:01:01,469 --> 00:01:07,560
and initiated the idea of doing a

20
00:01:04,409 --> 00:01:09,390
program like this and I was the one who

21
00:01:07,560 --> 00:01:11,219
sort of knew the contacts who had the

22
00:01:09,390 --> 00:01:12,840
vaccine and the nurses and the skills to

23
00:01:11,219 --> 00:01:14,459
actually give it so I was sort of the

24
00:01:12,840 --> 00:01:15,960
intermediary between the people with the

25
00:01:14,459 --> 00:01:18,239
idea and the people who are doing the

26
00:01:15,959 --> 00:01:20,329
vaccinating right so at the city state

27
00:01:18,239 --> 00:01:22,530
your role is in epidemiology

28
00:01:20,329 --> 00:01:25,950
immunization epidemiology or vaccine

29

00:01:22,530 --> 00:01:29,099
epidemiology yes I have in the past work

30
00:01:25,950 --> 00:01:31,290
in measles vaccine epidemiology and now

31
00:01:29,099 --> 00:01:33,179
I primarily try to train doctors and

32
00:01:31,290 --> 00:01:35,130
nurses about vaccine there's a lot of

33
00:01:33,180 --> 00:01:38,250
constant changes as you know and in the

34
00:01:35,129 --> 00:01:40,140
vaccination realm and so my job is to

35
00:01:38,250 --> 00:01:42,840
make sure that doctors and nurses in the

36
00:01:40,140 --> 00:01:44,070
US are kept up to date on what the new

37
00:01:42,840 --> 00:01:45,930
recommendations are and what they should

38
00:01:44,069 --> 00:01:48,059
be doing and there's a good reason why

39
00:01:45,930 --> 00:01:50,100
we are here today in the vaccine clinic

40
00:01:48,060 --> 00:01:52,049
at dragoncon there's currently an

41
00:01:50,099 --> 00:01:53,759
epidemic of whooping cough in California

42
00:01:52,049 --> 00:01:55,619
can you tell us a little bit about that

43
00:01:53,760 --> 00:01:58,978

we've already had deaths of seven or

44

00:01:55,620 --> 00:02:01,950

eight young children how bad is that

45

00:01:58,978 --> 00:02:04,200

epidemic at the moment we've seen quite

46

00:02:01,950 --> 00:02:06,900

a lot of pertussis in in several states

47

00:02:04,200 --> 00:02:11,400

California being the most notable there

48

00:02:06,900 --> 00:02:13,260

have been 10 15 deaths countrywide what

49

00:02:11,400 --> 00:02:14,580

we're seeing is a lot of the cases

50

00:02:13,259 --> 00:02:16,620

been in children but they're being

51

00:02:14,580 --> 00:02:19,799

affected by their parents and their

52

00:02:16,620 --> 00:02:21,239

siblings and their babysitter's so we

53

00:02:19,799 --> 00:02:22,980

thought this was a good idea here

54

00:02:21,239 --> 00:02:24,390

because this is a lot of the age of the

55

00:02:22,979 --> 00:02:26,340

people that may have children at home

56

00:02:24,389 --> 00:02:28,768

may have contacts with children at home

57

00:02:26,340 --> 00:02:30,598

and thought this was a very fertile area

58
00:02:28,769 --> 00:02:33,030
likely and a lot of these kids have not

59
00:02:30,598 --> 00:02:35,068
had pertussis vaccine before or at least

60
00:02:33,030 --> 00:02:37,199
recently and the thing is with the

61
00:02:35,068 --> 00:02:39,389
pitocin spec seen it wears off after a

62
00:02:37,199 --> 00:02:41,518
number of years right so as an adult you

63
00:02:39,389 --> 00:02:43,169
need to get a booster because you can be

64
00:02:41,519 --> 00:02:44,459
a carrier but then you can pass it on to

65
00:02:43,169 --> 00:02:46,289
young children who are particularly

66
00:02:44,459 --> 00:02:48,569
susceptible is that right absolutely

67
00:02:46,289 --> 00:02:50,189
correct probably most of us got our last

68
00:02:48,568 --> 00:02:52,469
dose of pertussis vaccine when we were

69
00:02:50,189 --> 00:02:54,959
five or six and it's only been since

70
00:02:52,469 --> 00:02:56,459
2005 that we've had this new vaccine we

71
00:02:54,959 --> 00:02:58,408
could give to adolescents and adults so

72
00:02:56,459 --> 00:02:59,908
it's a relatively new vaccine and we

73
00:02:58,408 --> 00:03:02,310
hope it will make a big difference in

74
00:02:59,908 --> 00:03:04,318
put gus's both in the US and elsewhere

75
00:03:02,310 --> 00:03:06,209
as well so who is the most susceptible

76
00:03:04,318 --> 00:03:08,729
to pertussis we're talking about young

77
00:03:06,209 --> 00:03:10,319
kids but we're also talking about people

78
00:03:08,729 --> 00:03:12,899
with immune suppression are we what who

79
00:03:10,318 --> 00:03:15,208
are the people that are most at risk the

80
00:03:12,900 --> 00:03:16,889
most really anybody can be infected who

81
00:03:15,209 --> 00:03:19,979
hasn't been who hasn't been vaccinated

82
00:03:16,889 --> 00:03:23,669
recently adults because of our the size

83
00:03:19,979 --> 00:03:25,289
of our Airways tend to have fewer severe

84
00:03:23,669 --> 00:03:27,480
symptoms they could be pretty sick but

85
00:03:25,289 --> 00:03:29,009
it's mostly the really young children

86

00:03:27,479 --> 00:03:30,988
who have the most severe disease because

87
00:03:29,009 --> 00:03:33,030
their Airways are very tiny and because

88
00:03:30,989 --> 00:03:36,030
they likely have not had all their doses

89
00:03:33,030 --> 00:03:37,799
of their pediatric childhood vaccine

90
00:03:36,030 --> 00:03:39,719
series yet so we worry most about

91
00:03:37,799 --> 00:03:41,519
children that's most likely to die most

92
00:03:39,719 --> 00:03:43,709
likely to have very severe illness but

93
00:03:41,519 --> 00:03:45,480
really any of us can cough it on

94
00:03:43,709 --> 00:03:47,400
anybody else that we haven't we haven't

95
00:03:45,479 --> 00:03:49,500
had a vaccine within a few years and how

96
00:03:47,400 --> 00:03:51,150
is it transmitted transmitted by by

97
00:03:49,500 --> 00:03:54,019
droplets by air with respiratory

98
00:03:51,150 --> 00:03:56,099
droplets when people cough sneeze talk

99
00:03:54,019 --> 00:03:58,799
anything it's a very efficiently

100
00:03:56,098 --> 00:04:00,500

transmitted bacteria and it is very

101

00:03:58,799 --> 00:04:05,189

easily transmitted from person to person

102

00:04:00,500 --> 00:04:06,780

so what role do you think the low levels

103

00:04:05,189 --> 00:04:09,449

of vaccinations are having in this

104

00:04:06,780 --> 00:04:10,889

epidemic if any because I know that some

105

00:04:09,449 --> 00:04:14,129

people are now choosing not to vaccinate

106

00:04:10,889 --> 00:04:15,599

their children for all sorts of reasons

107

00:04:14,128 --> 00:04:18,269

but some of this is to do with the

108

00:04:15,598 --> 00:04:20,158

anti-vaccine quite active in America we

109

00:04:18,269 --> 00:04:21,478

have the same problem in Australia do

110

00:04:20,158 --> 00:04:24,029

you think that's contributed at all to

111

00:04:21,478 --> 00:04:26,439

these recent outbreaks it probably does

112

00:04:24,029 --> 00:04:28,689

I think probably the bigger problem

113

00:04:26,439 --> 00:04:30,639

that tends to be a fairly small

114

00:04:28,689 --> 00:04:32,589

proportion except they tend to cluster

115
00:04:30,639 --> 00:04:34,419
together folks who who haven't been

116
00:04:32,589 --> 00:04:36,519
vaccinated we think probably in the u.s.

117
00:04:34,420 --> 00:04:38,770
it's not more than one or two percent of

118
00:04:36,519 --> 00:04:40,629
people but in some areas it can be much

119
00:04:38,769 --> 00:04:43,810
much higher than that because they sort

120
00:04:40,629 --> 00:04:45,250
of have communities if you will and but

121
00:04:43,810 --> 00:04:46,720
the biggest problem I think right now is

122
00:04:45,250 --> 00:04:48,519
the fact that most adults and

123
00:04:46,720 --> 00:04:50,980
adolescents have not had a dose of

124
00:04:48,519 --> 00:04:52,419
pertussis vaccine for so long so the

125
00:04:50,980 --> 00:04:54,460
kind of vaccine we're doing here is

126
00:04:52,420 --> 00:04:56,710
exactly i think what we need to do to

127
00:04:54,459 --> 00:04:58,449
raise the level of immunity in the

128
00:04:56,709 --> 00:05:00,399
population and help stomp out this

129
00:04:58,449 --> 00:05:02,050
outbreak we're having them so what's the

130
00:05:00,399 --> 00:05:04,810
response been like here in the clinic at

131
00:05:02,050 --> 00:05:06,129
dragoncon it's been very good we didn't

132
00:05:04,810 --> 00:05:08,379
really know what was going to happen is

133
00:05:06,129 --> 00:05:10,120
the first time this has been tried but

134
00:05:08,379 --> 00:05:12,339
we are probably going to use all our

135
00:05:10,120 --> 00:05:13,870
vaccine today we came with we came with

136
00:05:12,339 --> 00:05:15,669
a hundred doses yesterday gave almost

137
00:05:13,870 --> 00:05:17,350
all of them came with more than 100

138
00:05:15,670 --> 00:05:19,629
today and it looks like we're going to

139
00:05:17,350 --> 00:05:21,189
probably give out all those too so it's

140
00:05:19,629 --> 00:05:23,350
actually been quite successful since we

141
00:05:21,189 --> 00:05:25,959
didn't really know what to suspect but

142
00:05:23,350 --> 00:05:27,820
the uptake has been very good yeah we're

143

00:05:25,959 --> 00:05:29,049
very happy with ways turned out and so

144
00:05:27,819 --> 00:05:30,579
what kind of people have you been

145
00:05:29,050 --> 00:05:32,770
vaccinating are you talking about the

146
00:05:30,579 --> 00:05:34,839
the people that you really want to

147
00:05:32,769 --> 00:05:37,870
target which is the adolescents and the

148
00:05:34,839 --> 00:05:39,549
young parents kind of what sort of

149
00:05:37,870 --> 00:05:43,120
demographic this thing has been it's

150
00:05:39,550 --> 00:05:45,970
been it looks like about half men and

151
00:05:43,120 --> 00:05:48,069
women about half of each and we have

152
00:05:45,970 --> 00:05:49,540
seen mostly it looks just we haven't

153
00:05:48,069 --> 00:05:51,399
actually crunched the numbers low yet

154
00:05:49,540 --> 00:05:53,770
but it looks like it's been people in

155
00:05:51,399 --> 00:05:56,289
their 30s 20s 30s and 40s it's who is

156
00:05:53,769 --> 00:05:57,549
exactly the folks that we were hoping to

157
00:05:56,290 --> 00:06:00,340

be able to vaccinate while we were here

158

00:05:57,550 --> 00:06:01,360

so I'm fascinated by this but the fact

159

00:06:00,339 --> 00:06:02,739

that you can actually do this bill

160

00:06:01,360 --> 00:06:04,180

because in Australia I don't know if

161

00:06:02,740 --> 00:06:06,129

it's that common that you can kind of I

162

00:06:04,180 --> 00:06:08,290

mean this was set up by the skeptics as

163

00:06:06,129 --> 00:06:10,839

you said Maria Walters and they rented

164

00:06:08,290 --> 00:06:13,350

out a shopfront and for the weekend and

165

00:06:10,839 --> 00:06:16,149

got you guys on board and in terms of

166

00:06:13,350 --> 00:06:19,510

liability and health issues and stuff is

167

00:06:16,149 --> 00:06:21,339

that's already in place in America to do

168

00:06:19,509 --> 00:06:22,719

that sort of thing is it it is we do a

169

00:06:21,339 --> 00:06:25,060

lot of that in public health and the

170

00:06:22,720 --> 00:06:27,430

United States and fortunately the state

171

00:06:25,060 --> 00:06:29,740

of Georgia and one of the local County

172
00:06:27,430 --> 00:06:33,569
Health Department's really have a lot of

173
00:06:29,740 --> 00:06:35,949
experience doing remote immunization

174
00:06:33,569 --> 00:06:37,899
operations they had a protocol set up

175
00:06:35,949 --> 00:06:38,610
they had the equipment and the people

176
00:06:37,899 --> 00:06:40,739
who are willing to

177
00:06:38,610 --> 00:06:43,379
down and spend their weekend down here

178
00:06:40,740 --> 00:06:45,840
and volunteer so they we actually have a

179
00:06:43,379 --> 00:06:47,340
very good infrastructure we some places

180
00:06:45,839 --> 00:06:49,739
are better at doing that than others we

181
00:06:47,339 --> 00:06:51,810
got lucky we have a very good group here

182
00:06:49,740 --> 00:06:54,120
in the Atlanta area that was able to

183
00:06:51,810 --> 00:06:55,918
come out and do this for us you see them

184
00:06:54,120 --> 00:06:57,329
sitting right back there behind us now

185
00:06:55,918 --> 00:06:58,889
and they've been busy all day they're

186
00:06:57,329 --> 00:07:00,628
very busy at the moment but i noticed

187
00:06:58,889 --> 00:07:03,650
behind us also there's free HIV testing

188
00:07:00,629 --> 00:07:06,479
here how does how do you conduct that

189
00:07:03,649 --> 00:07:08,908
it's actually a saliva test for

190
00:07:06,478 --> 00:07:11,158
antibodies and that was kind of an

191
00:07:08,908 --> 00:07:13,348
afterthought it turns out that the the

192
00:07:11,158 --> 00:07:16,110
folks doing the HIV testing work in the

193
00:07:13,348 --> 00:07:18,329
same office as as the nurses back there

194
00:07:16,110 --> 00:07:20,639
doing the vaccinating so they it was

195
00:07:18,329 --> 00:07:22,378
word of mouth again kind of right place

196
00:07:20,639 --> 00:07:23,460
right time they said well we're going

197
00:07:22,379 --> 00:07:25,490
down would you like to come with us and

198
00:07:23,459 --> 00:07:29,008
there may be some high-risk folks there

199
00:07:25,490 --> 00:07:30,718
lots of tattoos lots of things and and

200

00:07:29,009 --> 00:07:32,129
they thought good opportunity to do this

201
00:07:30,718 --> 00:07:33,899
and really they've had a good response

202
00:07:32,129 --> 00:07:35,699
even though we didn't really advertise

203
00:07:33,899 --> 00:07:37,709
this at all they just kind of came and

204
00:07:35,699 --> 00:07:40,139
set up shopping it we just kind of let

205
00:07:37,709 --> 00:07:42,568
it run so what about the counseling sort

206
00:07:40,139 --> 00:07:46,259
of aspect of the HIV testing do you get

207
00:07:42,569 --> 00:07:48,569
a result right here or do you send that

208
00:07:46,259 --> 00:07:50,669
test away and then it's done all it

209
00:07:48,569 --> 00:07:52,919
takes 20 minutes it's all done right on

210
00:07:50,668 --> 00:07:55,740
the spot we ask the person to come back

211
00:07:52,918 --> 00:07:57,389
we won't email it or anything we want to

212
00:07:55,740 --> 00:07:59,908
come back and be able to counsel them as

213
00:07:57,389 --> 00:08:02,370
to what the results mean we interest Nia

214
00:07:59,908 --> 00:08:04,649

are using the dressing rooms for our

215

00:08:02,370 --> 00:08:06,149

little counseling offices oh I say right

216

00:08:04,649 --> 00:08:08,068

yeah when getting out of those little

217

00:08:06,149 --> 00:08:10,588

rooms just with a former clothing store

218

00:08:08,069 --> 00:08:12,240

I say and they've been using the the

219

00:08:10,588 --> 00:08:14,759

dressing rooms as the counseling rooms

220

00:08:12,240 --> 00:08:16,620

all right so the results for the HIV are

221

00:08:14,759 --> 00:08:18,479

given in the dressing room and right

222

00:08:16,620 --> 00:08:20,639

here right here 20 minutes interesting

223

00:08:18,478 --> 00:08:22,978

interesting well thank you so much bill

224

00:08:20,639 --> 00:08:25,408

for joining us today well I think this

225

00:08:22,978 --> 00:08:26,310

is a fantastic initiative I don't know

226

00:08:25,408 --> 00:08:27,810

if we have anything like this in

227

00:08:26,310 --> 00:08:29,370

Australia I wish we could have something

228

00:08:27,810 --> 00:08:31,288

like this I don't know if you know but

229

00:08:29,370 --> 00:08:33,509

we've had measles outbreaks recently and

230

00:08:31,288 --> 00:08:36,059

we've had australia-wide we've had

231

00:08:33,509 --> 00:08:38,278

pertussis epidemics as well so we have

232

00:08:36,059 --> 00:08:39,598

similar problems to America in that

233

00:08:38,278 --> 00:08:41,668

sense and I think this is a great thing

234

00:08:39,599 --> 00:08:44,209

to do great thanks for joining us today

235

00:08:41,668 --> 00:08:44,208

you work