



1  
00:00:12,950 --> 00:00:07,249  
now it's time for dr. Rachel reports

2  
00:00:15,560 --> 00:00:12,960  
with dr. Rachel Dunlop and I'm dr. H E

3  
00:00:18,230 --> 00:00:15,570  
and here we are at the free vaccine

4  
00:00:20,890 --> 00:00:18,240  
clinic at dragon con 2010 in Atlanta

5  
00:00:23,779 --> 00:00:20,900  
Georgia and i'm here with Bill Atkinson

6  
00:00:25,939 --> 00:00:23,789  
hello bill welcome to the skeptic zone

7  
00:00:29,900 --> 00:00:25,949  
what I'm doing well thank you very much

8  
00:00:32,030 --> 00:00:29,910  
now you are in immunization from the

9  
00:00:34,820 --> 00:00:32,040  
Centers for Disease Control the CDC it's

10  
00:00:37,490 --> 00:00:34,830  
great you're an MD with a master's in

11  
00:00:40,070 --> 00:00:37,500  
public health yes and you helped to set

12  
00:00:43,100 --> 00:00:40,080  
up the vaccine clinic here at Dragon Con

13  
00:00:47,480 --> 00:00:43,110

yes can you tell me about your role in

14

00:00:49,730 --> 00:00:47,490

setting it up my job day-to-day is

15

00:00:55,730 --> 00:00:49,740

mainly training doctors and nurses how

16

00:00:58,700 --> 00:00:55,740

to give vaccines I met I met Maria

17

00:01:01,460 --> 00:00:58,710

Walters at tam and introduced myself and

18

00:01:04,400 --> 00:01:01,470

she remembered me when she got back here

19

00:01:07,550 --> 00:01:04,410

and initiated the idea of doing a

20

00:01:09,380 --> 00:01:07,560

program like this and I was the one who

21

00:01:11,210 --> 00:01:09,390

sort of knew the contacts who had the

22

00:01:12,830 --> 00:01:11,220

vaccine and the nurses and the skills to

23

00:01:14,450 --> 00:01:12,840

actually give it so I was sort of the

24

00:01:15,950 --> 00:01:14,460

intermediary between the people with the

25

00:01:18,230 --> 00:01:15,960

idea and the people who are doing the

26

00:01:20,320 --> 00:01:18,240

vaccinating right so at the city state

27

00:01:22,520 --> 00:01:20,330

your role is in epidemiology

28

00:01:25,940 --> 00:01:22,530

immunization epidemiology or vaccine

29

00:01:29,090 --> 00:01:25,950

epidemiology yes I have in the past work

30

00:01:31,280 --> 00:01:29,100

in measles vaccine epidemiology and now

31

00:01:33,170 --> 00:01:31,290

I primarily try to train doctors and

32

00:01:35,120 --> 00:01:33,180

nurses about vaccine there's a lot of

33

00:01:38,240 --> 00:01:35,130

constant changes as you know and in the

34

00:01:40,130 --> 00:01:38,250

vaccination realm and so my job is to

35

00:01:42,830 --> 00:01:40,140

make sure that doctors and nurses in the

36

00:01:44,060 --> 00:01:42,840

US are kept up to date on what the new

37

00:01:45,920 --> 00:01:44,070

recommendations are and what they should

38

00:01:48,050 --> 00:01:45,930

be doing and there's a good reason why

39

00:01:50,090 --> 00:01:48,060

we are here today in the vaccine clinic

40

00:01:52,040 --> 00:01:50,100

at dragoncon there's currently an

41

00:01:53,750 --> 00:01:52,050

epidemic of whooping cough in California

42

00:01:55,610 --> 00:01:53,760

can you tell us a little bit about that

43

00:01:58,969 --> 00:01:55,620

we've already had deaths of seven or

44

00:02:01,940 --> 00:01:58,979

eight young children how bad is that

45

00:02:04,190 --> 00:02:01,950

epidemic at the moment we've seen quite

46

00:02:06,890 --> 00:02:04,200

a lot of pertussis in in several states

47

00:02:11,390 --> 00:02:06,900

California being the most notable there

48

00:02:13,250 --> 00:02:11,400

have been 10 15 deaths countrywide what

49

00:02:14,570 --> 00:02:13,260

we're seeing is a lot of the cases

50

00:02:16,610 --> 00:02:14,580

been in children but they're being

51  
00:02:19,789 --> 00:02:16,620  
affected by their parents and their

52  
00:02:21,229 --> 00:02:19,799  
siblings and their babysitter's so we

53  
00:02:22,970 --> 00:02:21,239  
thought this was a good idea here

54  
00:02:24,380 --> 00:02:22,980  
because this is a lot of the age of the

55  
00:02:26,330 --> 00:02:24,390  
people that may have children at home

56  
00:02:28,759 --> 00:02:26,340  
may have contacts with children at home

57  
00:02:30,589 --> 00:02:28,769  
and thought this was a very fertile area

58  
00:02:33,020 --> 00:02:30,599  
likely and a lot of these kids have not

59  
00:02:35,059 --> 00:02:33,030  
had pertussis vaccine before or at least

60  
00:02:37,190 --> 00:02:35,069  
recently and the thing is with the

61  
00:02:39,380 --> 00:02:37,200  
pitocin spec seen it wears off after a

62  
00:02:41,509 --> 00:02:39,390  
number of years right so as an adult you

63  
00:02:43,160 --> 00:02:41,519

need to get a booster because you can be

64

00:02:44,449 --> 00:02:43,170

a carrier but then you can pass it on to

65

00:02:46,280 --> 00:02:44,459

young children who are particularly

66

00:02:48,559 --> 00:02:46,290

susceptible is that right absolutely

67

00:02:50,180 --> 00:02:48,569

correct probably most of us got our last

68

00:02:52,460 --> 00:02:50,190

dose of pertussis vaccine when we were

69

00:02:54,949 --> 00:02:52,470

five or six and it's only been since

70

00:02:56,449 --> 00:02:54,959

2005 that we've had this new vaccine we

71

00:02:58,399 --> 00:02:56,459

could give to adolescents and adults so

72

00:02:59,899 --> 00:02:58,409

it's a relatively new vaccine and we

73

00:03:02,300 --> 00:02:59,909

hope it will make a big difference in

74

00:03:04,309 --> 00:03:02,310

put gus's both in the US and elsewhere

75

00:03:06,199 --> 00:03:04,319

as well so who is the most susceptible

76  
00:03:08,720 --> 00:03:06,209  
to pertussis we're talking about young

77  
00:03:10,309 --> 00:03:08,730  
kids but we're also talking about people

78  
00:03:12,890 --> 00:03:10,319  
with immune suppression are we what who

79  
00:03:15,199 --> 00:03:12,900  
are the people that are most at risk the

80  
00:03:16,879 --> 00:03:15,209  
most really anybody can be infected who

81  
00:03:19,970 --> 00:03:16,889  
hasn't been who hasn't been vaccinated

82  
00:03:23,659 --> 00:03:19,980  
recently adults because of our the size

83  
00:03:25,280 --> 00:03:23,669  
of our Airways tend to have fewer severe

84  
00:03:27,470 --> 00:03:25,290  
symptoms they could be pretty sick but

85  
00:03:29,000 --> 00:03:27,480  
it's mostly the really young children

86  
00:03:30,979 --> 00:03:29,010  
who have the most severe disease because

87  
00:03:33,020 --> 00:03:30,989  
their Airways are very tiny and because

88  
00:03:36,020 --> 00:03:33,030

they likely have not had all their doses

89

00:03:37,789 --> 00:03:36,030

of their pediatric childhood vaccine

90

00:03:39,710 --> 00:03:37,799

series yet so we worry most about

91

00:03:41,509 --> 00:03:39,720

children that's most likely to die most

92

00:03:43,699 --> 00:03:41,519

likely to have very severe illness but

93

00:03:45,470 --> 00:03:43,709

really any of us can cough it on

94

00:03:47,390 --> 00:03:45,480

anybody else that we haven't we haven't

95

00:03:49,490 --> 00:03:47,400

had a vaccine within a few years and how

96

00:03:51,140 --> 00:03:49,500

is it transmitted transmitted by by

97

00:03:54,009 --> 00:03:51,150

droplets by air with respiratory

98

00:03:56,089 --> 00:03:54,019

droplets when people cough sneeze talk

99

00:03:58,789 --> 00:03:56,099

anything it's a very efficiently

100

00:04:00,490 --> 00:03:58,799

transmitted bacteria and it is very

101  
00:04:05,180 --> 00:04:00,500  
easily transmitted from person to person

102  
00:04:06,770 --> 00:04:05,190  
so what role do you think the low levels

103  
00:04:09,439 --> 00:04:06,780  
of vaccinations are having in this

104  
00:04:10,879 --> 00:04:09,449  
epidemic if any because I know that some

105  
00:04:14,119 --> 00:04:10,889  
people are now choosing not to vaccinate

106  
00:04:15,589 --> 00:04:14,129  
their children for all sorts of reasons

107  
00:04:18,259 --> 00:04:15,599  
but some of this is to do with the

108  
00:04:20,149 --> 00:04:18,269  
anti-vaccine quite active in America we

109  
00:04:21,469 --> 00:04:20,159  
have the same problem in Australia do

110  
00:04:24,020 --> 00:04:21,479  
you think that's contributed at all to

111  
00:04:26,430 --> 00:04:24,030  
these recent outbreaks it probably does

112  
00:04:28,680 --> 00:04:26,440  
I think probably the bigger problem

113  
00:04:30,630 --> 00:04:28,690

that tends to be a fairly small

114

00:04:32,580 --> 00:04:30,640

proportion except they tend to cluster

115

00:04:34,410 --> 00:04:32,590

together folks who who haven't been

116

00:04:36,510 --> 00:04:34,420

vaccinated we think probably in the u.s.

117

00:04:38,760 --> 00:04:36,520

it's not more than one or two percent of

118

00:04:40,620 --> 00:04:38,770

people but in some areas it can be much

119

00:04:43,800 --> 00:04:40,630

much higher than that because they sort

120

00:04:45,240 --> 00:04:43,810

of have communities if you will and but

121

00:04:46,710 --> 00:04:45,250

the biggest problem I think right now is

122

00:04:48,510 --> 00:04:46,720

the fact that most adults and

123

00:04:50,970 --> 00:04:48,520

adolescents have not had a dose of

124

00:04:52,410 --> 00:04:50,980

pertussis vaccine for so long so the

125

00:04:54,450 --> 00:04:52,420

kind of vaccine we're doing here is

126

00:04:56,700 --> 00:04:54,460

exactly i think what we need to do to

127

00:04:58,440 --> 00:04:56,710

raise the level of immunity in the

128

00:05:00,390 --> 00:04:58,450

population and help stomp out this

129

00:05:02,040 --> 00:05:00,400

outbreak we're having them so what's the

130

00:05:04,800 --> 00:05:02,050

response been like here in the clinic at

131

00:05:06,120 --> 00:05:04,810

dragoncon it's been very good we didn't

132

00:05:08,370 --> 00:05:06,130

really know what was going to happen is

133

00:05:10,110 --> 00:05:08,380

the first time this has been tried but

134

00:05:12,330 --> 00:05:10,120

we are probably going to use all our

135

00:05:13,860 --> 00:05:12,340

vaccine today we came with we came with

136

00:05:15,660 --> 00:05:13,870

a hundred doses yesterday gave almost

137

00:05:17,340 --> 00:05:15,670

all of them came with more than 100

138

00:05:19,620 --> 00:05:17,350

today and it looks like we're going to

139

00:05:21,180 --> 00:05:19,630

probably give out all those too so it's

140

00:05:23,340 --> 00:05:21,190

actually been quite successful since we

141

00:05:25,950 --> 00:05:23,350

didn't really know what to suspect but

142

00:05:27,810 --> 00:05:25,960

the uptake has been very good yeah we're

143

00:05:29,040 --> 00:05:27,820

very happy with ways turned out and so

144

00:05:30,570 --> 00:05:29,050

what kind of people have you been

145

00:05:32,760 --> 00:05:30,580

vaccinating are you talking about the

146

00:05:34,830 --> 00:05:32,770

the people that you really want to

147

00:05:37,860 --> 00:05:34,840

target which is the adolescents and the

148

00:05:39,540 --> 00:05:37,870

young parents kind of what sort of

149

00:05:43,110 --> 00:05:39,550

demographic this thing has been it's

150

00:05:45,960 --> 00:05:43,120

been it looks like about half men and

151  
00:05:48,060 --> 00:05:45,970  
women about half of each and we have

152  
00:05:49,530 --> 00:05:48,070  
seen mostly it looks just we haven't

153  
00:05:51,390 --> 00:05:49,540  
actually crunched the numbers low yet

154  
00:05:53,760 --> 00:05:51,400  
but it looks like it's been people in

155  
00:05:56,280 --> 00:05:53,770  
their 30s 20s 30s and 40s it's who is

156  
00:05:57,540 --> 00:05:56,290  
exactly the folks that we were hoping to

157  
00:06:00,330 --> 00:05:57,550  
be able to vaccinate while we were here

158  
00:06:01,350 --> 00:06:00,340  
so I'm fascinated by this but the fact

159  
00:06:02,730 --> 00:06:01,360  
that you can actually do this bill

160  
00:06:04,170 --> 00:06:02,740  
because in Australia I don't know if

161  
00:06:06,120 --> 00:06:04,180  
it's that common that you can kind of I

162  
00:06:08,280 --> 00:06:06,130  
mean this was set up by the skeptics as

163  
00:06:10,830 --> 00:06:08,290

you said Maria Walters and they rented

164

00:06:13,340 --> 00:06:10,840

out a shopfront and for the weekend and

165

00:06:16,140 --> 00:06:13,350

got you guys on board and in terms of

166

00:06:19,500 --> 00:06:16,150

liability and health issues and stuff is

167

00:06:21,330 --> 00:06:19,510

that's already in place in America to do

168

00:06:22,710 --> 00:06:21,340

that sort of thing is it it is we do a

169

00:06:25,050 --> 00:06:22,720

lot of that in public health and the

170

00:06:27,420 --> 00:06:25,060

United States and fortunately the state

171

00:06:29,730 --> 00:06:27,430

of Georgia and one of the local County

172

00:06:33,560 --> 00:06:29,740

Health Department's really have a lot of

173

00:06:35,940 --> 00:06:33,570

experience doing remote immunization

174

00:06:37,890 --> 00:06:35,950

operations they had a protocol set up

175

00:06:38,600 --> 00:06:37,900

they had the equipment and the people

176

00:06:40,730 --> 00:06:38,610

who are willing to

177

00:06:43,369 --> 00:06:40,740

down and spend their weekend down here

178

00:06:45,830 --> 00:06:43,379

and volunteer so they we actually have a

179

00:06:47,330 --> 00:06:45,840

very good infrastructure we some places

180

00:06:49,730 --> 00:06:47,340

are better at doing that than others we

181

00:06:51,800 --> 00:06:49,740

got lucky we have a very good group here

182

00:06:54,110 --> 00:06:51,810

in the Atlanta area that was able to

183

00:06:55,909 --> 00:06:54,120

come out and do this for us you see them

184

00:06:57,320 --> 00:06:55,919

sitting right back there behind us now

185

00:06:58,879 --> 00:06:57,330

and they've been busy all day they're

186

00:07:00,619 --> 00:06:58,889

very busy at the moment but i noticed

187

00:07:03,640 --> 00:07:00,629

behind us also there's free HIV testing

188

00:07:06,469 --> 00:07:03,650

here how does how do you conduct that

189

00:07:08,899 --> 00:07:06,479

it's actually a saliva test for

190

00:07:11,149 --> 00:07:08,909

antibodies and that was kind of an

191

00:07:13,339 --> 00:07:11,159

afterthought it turns out that the the

192

00:07:16,100 --> 00:07:13,349

folks doing the HIV testing work in the

193

00:07:18,320 --> 00:07:16,110

same office as as the nurses back there

194

00:07:20,629 --> 00:07:18,330

doing the vaccinating so they it was

195

00:07:22,369 --> 00:07:20,639

word of mouth again kind of right place

196

00:07:23,450 --> 00:07:22,379

right time they said well we're going

197

00:07:25,480 --> 00:07:23,460

down would you like to come with us and

198

00:07:28,999 --> 00:07:25,490

there may be some high-risk folks there

199

00:07:30,709 --> 00:07:29,009

lots of tattoos lots of things and and

200

00:07:32,119 --> 00:07:30,719

they thought good opportunity to do this

201  
00:07:33,890 --> 00:07:32,129  
and really they've had a good response

202  
00:07:35,689 --> 00:07:33,900  
even though we didn't really advertise

203  
00:07:37,700 --> 00:07:35,699  
this at all they just kind of came and

204  
00:07:40,129 --> 00:07:37,710  
set up shopping it we just kind of let

205  
00:07:42,559 --> 00:07:40,139  
it run so what about the counseling sort

206  
00:07:46,249 --> 00:07:42,569  
of aspect of the HIV testing do you get

207  
00:07:48,559 --> 00:07:46,259  
a result right here or do you send that

208  
00:07:50,659 --> 00:07:48,569  
test away and then it's done all it

209  
00:07:52,909 --> 00:07:50,669  
takes 20 minutes it's all done right on

210  
00:07:55,730 --> 00:07:52,919  
the spot we ask the person to come back

211  
00:07:57,379 --> 00:07:55,740  
we won't email it or anything we want to

212  
00:07:59,899 --> 00:07:57,389  
come back and be able to counsel them as

213  
00:08:02,360 --> 00:07:59,909

to what the results mean we interest Nia

214

00:08:04,640 --> 00:08:02,370

are using the dressing rooms for our

215

00:08:06,140 --> 00:08:04,650

little counseling offices oh I say right

216

00:08:08,059 --> 00:08:06,150

yeah when getting out of those little

217

00:08:10,579 --> 00:08:08,069

rooms just with a former clothing store

218

00:08:12,230 --> 00:08:10,589

I say and they've been using the the

219

00:08:14,749 --> 00:08:12,240

dressing rooms as the counseling rooms

220

00:08:16,610 --> 00:08:14,759

all right so the results for the HIV are

221

00:08:18,469 --> 00:08:16,620

given in the dressing room and right

222

00:08:20,629 --> 00:08:18,479

here right here 20 minutes interesting

223

00:08:22,969 --> 00:08:20,639

interesting well thank you so much bill

224

00:08:25,399 --> 00:08:22,979

for joining us today well I think this

225

00:08:26,300 --> 00:08:25,409

is a fantastic initiative I don't know

226

00:08:27,800 --> 00:08:26,310

if we have anything like this in

227

00:08:29,360 --> 00:08:27,810

Australia I wish we could have something

228

00:08:31,279 --> 00:08:29,370

like this I don't know if you know but

229

00:08:33,500 --> 00:08:31,289

we've had measles outbreaks recently and

230

00:08:36,050 --> 00:08:33,510

we've had australia-wide we've had

231

00:08:38,269 --> 00:08:36,060

pertussis epidemics as well so we have

232

00:08:39,589 --> 00:08:38,279

similar problems to America in that

233

00:08:41,659 --> 00:08:39,599

sense and I think this is a great thing