FACT: Ivermectin is often used to treat animals and humans for parasites.
Ivermectin tablets are approved for humans at very specific doses for some parasitic worms, and there are topical versions of it used for head lice and skin conditions like rosacea. For years, ivermectin has also been utilized by veterinary doctors to treat animals. Some forms of ivermectin are used in animals to prevent heartworm disease, as well as certain internal and external parasites.

FACT: Ivermectin for animals should never be taken by humans under any circumstances.
People are becoming seriously ill and are requiring hospitalization after purchasing and ingesting ivermectin meant for animals. A Mississippi man was recently hospitalized following the ingestion of ivermectin meant for horses, which he purchased from a livestock store. Animal drugs are often highly concentrated, because they are used for large animals like horses and cows, which weigh much more than humans. Taking such strong doses of ivermectin can be toxic in humans.

FACT: Studies show ivermectin is ineffective in treating or preventing COVID-19.
Ivermectin is not an anti-viral, which means it cannot be used to treat viruses. Some limited lab studies of ivermectin early in the COVID-19 pandemic suggested it could help treat COVID-19, but more rigorous research utilizing human subjects has found little or no impact. While some scientists are still studying the drug’s potential use as a treatment, there remains little data to suggest it is effective against COVID-19.

FACT: Taking ivermectin to treat or prevent COVID-19 can be dangerous.
As with other medications, taking ivermectin for an unapproved use can be very dangerous. Much misinformation has been spread around ivermectin, and one of the most harmful falsehoods being promoted is that it is safe to take large doses of ivermectin. You can overdose on ivermectin, which can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension (low blood pressure), allergic reactions (itching and hives), dizziness, ataxia (problems with balance), seizures, coma and even death. Even the levels of ivermectin for approved uses can negatively interact with other medications, such as blood-thinners.

FACT: Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself.
As COVID-19 continues spreading rapidly throughout our communities, we must all reject unproven and potentially dangerous medications, and instead, trust in the most proven and effective method for protecting ourselves and others - vaccination. Nearly all patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in the U.S. are unvaccinated. Getting vaccinated provides you with the best protection from contracting the virus, and most importantly, it also protects you from the more severe symptoms experienced by unvaccinated individuals that lead to hospitalization and death.

Schedule your vaccination appointment on the MyOchsner portal today. Visit ochsner.org/vaccine for more facts, or call 844-888-2772 with any additional questions. For more COVID-19 information and resources, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov) or the Louisiana Department of Health (ldh.la.gov) website.