

UPDATE: Ohio medical schools help lead frontline fight against COVID-19

November 13, 2020

Ohio's seven colleges of medicine continue to push forward, working together to harness all available resources and knowledge to have a meaningful impact that supports our state and our leaders in the fight against COVID-19.



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People with mental disorder diagnosis at increased risk for COVID-19 infection

CWRU's Dr. QuanQiu Wang explained results of a recent study published in *World Psychiatry*, showing individuals who were recently diagnosed with a mental disorder were at increased risk for COVID-19 infection, especially African Americans and women.

CWRU Selected to Study AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate

Case Western Reserve University and University Hospital will take part in AstraZeneca's Phase 3 global study of a possible COVID-19 vaccine. The AstraZeneca trial, which aims to enroll non-pregnant adults older than 18, will be conducted at UH in collaboration with the CWRU School of Medicine. Dr. Jeffrey Jacobson, professor of medicine at CWRU School of Medicine, is principal investigator for the trial.



COVID-19: Students return soon from college for Thanksgiving; so what would you do, doc?



Thanksgiving break is nearing, and with a lot of college students days away from heading home during an upswing in COVID-19 cases, public health officials are calling for vigilance in safety precautions. Infectious disease experts, including UC's Dr. Jennifer Forrester, weighed in on college break activities and how to stay safe.

Study: Anti-Inflammatory Drugs for IBD May Boost Recovery for COVID-19 Patients

Researchers from the University of Cincinnati joined a consortium of experts from across the country, in a study that discovered an enzyme that helps COVID-19 infect the body also plays a role in inflammation in patients with IBD.

NEOMED Speaker Series Focuses on Science and Leadership to Navigate the Pandemic

The Visionary Health Leadership in Action speaker series features a diverse range of experiences by innovative leaders in the medical field. This month, NEOMED alumni, Dr. Rajeev Venkayya, M.D. ('91), spoke on issues of innovation, separating fact from fiction during a pandemic, and health disparities.

Primary Care, Mental Health Services for Portage Community Continue Despite Pandemic



Four years ago, a new source of health care opened in Portage County to serve people who were uninsured or underinsured. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March, the clinic's staff and volunteers knew that patients would need them more than ever. Now known as the Student-Run Free Clinic at NEOMED, this community resource in Rootstown, Ohio, recently summited a new peak: one thousand patient visits.



Focusing on COVID-19 as a Catalyst for Change



COVID-19 has sharpened the focus on racial disparities in health, education, and economic mobility; and the need to leverage advances in research, data analytics and other technologies to address behavioral and physical health is greater than ever. A panel of experts, including OSU's Dr. Electra Plaskett; recently discussed how American universities are leading innovative collaboration that address health equity & the impacts of COVID-19.

New lab test clarifies the potential protective effects of COVID-19 antibodies

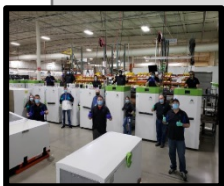
Knowing you have developed antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus after recovering from COVID-19 doesn't tell you everything about your immunity. Scientists at The Ohio State University have developed a new lab testing procedure for the detection of antibodies against COVID-19 that gives results more quickly and specifically identifies whether a person is protected against being reinfected.



COVID and Med Ed Cost: Are Future Docs Paying More for Less?

Across the country, medical students find themselves paying substantial costs for a medical education now greatly altered by the pandemic. Medical schools are working to find creative solutions for safely educating students including Ohio University's Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine's collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health, on a 4-week rotation for third-year students that focused on public health.

Ohio University Collaboration plays vital role in distribution of potential COVID-19 vaccines



Ohio University-supported Stirling Ultracold is earning national attention for its novel ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezers, which can supply the minus 80-degree Celsius storage environment that may be necessary for the upcoming COVID-19 vaccines. "This is a great example of the importance of supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, not just to help the region, but also the potential to impact the world."



COVID-19 Highlights Racial Disparity in End-of-Life Planning



As the number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths caused by COVID-19 continues to rise, researchers at The University of Toledo say advance care planning has never been more urgent — particularly in minority communities that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic..

Health officials utilize testing of raw sewage water to get a better grasp of COVID 19 levels

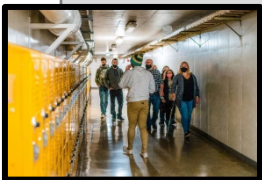
In a race to stop local spread of COVID-19, health officials are coming up with innovative new ways to detect virus spread. Dr. Saurabh Chattopadhyay, assistant professor and a virologist in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, recently discussed the state-wide COVID-19 surveillance in the wastewater study.



COVID-19 vaccine: What local experts are saying

Experts from WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine expressed hope at Pfizer's announcement that early results indicate its COVID-19 vaccine may be 90% effective but cautioned the public to remember a long road lays ahead before every person gets any approved vaccine.

WSU expanding COVID-19 testing as statewide numbers surge



Wright State's new pilot program for asymptomatic individuals will seek to increase the number of personnel tested to approximately 100 people a week. The three-week pilot program will test the same individuals once per week, allowing for early detection amongst the high-risk population.