

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

December 1, 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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COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



COLLEGE of  
MEDICINE



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



OHIO  
UNIVERSITY  
Heritage  
College of  
Osteopathic  
Medicine



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
AND LIFE SCIENCES  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO



Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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## **Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic researchers receive NCI grant to study immune system response to COVID-19**

"This funding from the National Cancer Institute allows us to pivot existing knowledge and resources to accelerate our understanding of COVID-19 infections to optimize our protections and response to this clinically devastating infection," said Stan Gerson, MD, interim dean of the School of medicine.

## **'Tis the season! Or is it? We asked COVID-19 experts: 'Would you do this, doc?'**



'Tis the season for shopping in crowded stores, visiting Santa, indulging in office parties, maybe even caroling. Infectious disease experts, including CWRU's Dr. Mark Cameron, share their thoughts on how to stay safe and healthy this holiday season.

### **How COVID-19 threatens the careers of women in medicine**



Even before the pandemic, women physicians and researchers earned less, did more at home, and were lower on the professional ladder compared to men. Dr. Heather Christensen discusses additional challenges like increased child care responsibilities, diminished opportunities for research and professional development, and hiring and promotional issues that have women worried that their careers may take a hit for years to come.

### **Cincinnati at center of another vaccine breakthrough**

Researchers have made another significant breakthrough in the fight against COVID-19 as results of the Moderna vaccine trial show it is 94.5% effective against the virus. Dr. Carl Fichtenbaum, who heads the Moderna research in Cincinnati, said they enrolled 185 volunteers to be part of the study that involves 30,000 people in several sites across the nation.

### **Racism in many forms can affect people's health**

NEOMED alumni Dr. Carl Allamby discussed his personal experiences with racism in health care and how racism in different forms can affect a person's health and well-being. In light of the outsized impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the African American population and amid growing tensions and protests this summer after the death of George Floyd, public officials across the country declared racism to be a public health crisis.

### **CDC: People with COVID-19 infect about half their household**



Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are warning people about the high risk of spread if a member of their household contracts COVID-19. Infectious disease expert Dr. Richard Watkins, shares his recommendations on keeping family members safe and stopping the spread of COVID-19.



### **COVID-19, racial injustice drive medical school application surge**



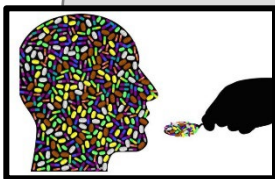
Unlike many plans COVID-19 has stunted, the pandemic may have inspired more doctors-to-be to apply to medical school. Dr. Demicha Rankin, associate dean of admissions at Ohio State's College of Medicine, said the pandemic coupled with the movement for anti-racism could be motivating new applicants toward the medical field.

### **10 ways to care for yourself if you have COVID-19**

If you've tested positive for COVID-19, you may wonder how best to care for yourself while protecting others in your home. Dr. Dustin Chase, vice chair for Inpatient Clinical Medicine at OSUCOM, shares his recommendations for taking care of yourself during your recovery and keeping your loved ones safe and healthy.



### **Study published on strategies hospitals adopt to address opioid epidemic**



While the world's attention to public health remains focused on COVID-19, Berkeley Franz, Ph.D., assistant professor at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, continues to focus her attention on another public health crisis in the US today—the opioid epidemic. Evidence shows the added societal stress of the pandemic can actually exacerbate substance misuse.

### **As students leave Athens, public health experts expect little change in COVID-19 caseload**

Ohio University's fall semester is coming to a close and many students are packing their bags to leave town for the holidays. But the Athens City-County Health department doesn't anticipate a significant decline in COVID-19 cases — even with the likely widespread absence of a demographic that's made up the lion's share of infections in the county.



### **Experts say curfew may curb coronavirus spread, but probably not much**



A statewide curfew imposed by Gov. Mike Dewine will likely prevent a few coronavirus infections, but is unlikely to alter the upward trajectory of new coronavirus cases, infectious disease experts said. UT's Dr. Joel Kammeyer shared "Eliminating possibilities for transmission are the idea behind curfews but the virus itself doesn't respect curfews."

### **Getting your flu shot has never been more important**

With our health-care personnel and systems already stretched thin, combating widespread outbreaks of both the flu and COVID-19 viruses at the same time risks overwhelming the nation's healthcare infrastructure. Dr. Michael Ellis, an infectious disease specialist and UT professor of medicine, emphasizes the importance of getting our flu shot this year.



### **Inequities in health outcomes prompt renewed calls for change**

Racial discrimination across generations — both overt and subtle — has had profound consequences for the health of Black Americans and other underrepresented populations. Dr. Gary LeRoy and other health experts shared their thoughts on the impact social determinants of health and lack of diversity in medicine can have on the health outcomes of underrepresented populations.

### **Demand for flu shots is up. Why that's important during COVID surge**



Pharmacies are reporting increases in the demand for flu shots, an encouraging sign as health experts stress the need to prevent an influenza outbreak amid a surge in COVID cases and hospitalizations. WSU professor Dr. Glen Solomon advised. "Anything that you can do to keep people healthy and keep them out of the need for health care is enormously important right now."