

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

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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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CWRU Recognizes COVID-19 Heroes—Sung and Unsung



It's been one year since COVID-19 began to change our lives forever. In all facets of daily life and by varying degrees, the virus has impacted every one of us. And in our individual ways, we have risen to confront this wicked, relentless challenge.

Why it takes 2 weeks for the COVID vaccines to kick in

Why two weeks? "When you get vaccinated, your immune system gets a to-do list," explained Mark Cameron, an immunologist at Case Western Reserve University. "It's around the two-week mark that the immune system is producing antibodies at levels that block infections," said Cameron.

Intersecting Pandemics: The Opioid Epidemic and COVID-19

Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine recently hosted a webinar focused on how COVID-19 has affected individuals incarcerated for substance use both nationally and in the Cuyahoga County jail, and what changes are needed to ensure their safety and continued access to treatment.

It's spring. You're vaccinated. We asked docs what they feel is safe, what they'd avoid



A lot of us are fully vaccinated now. Some are on the cusp. And we know that most doctors have been vaccinated against COVID-19 for quite a while now. So as we consider our (very near) future and all its possibilities, we may wonder what infectious diseases and other COVID-19 experts are thinking.

When Will Kids Get COVID-19 Vaccines? Experts Share a Timeline to Keep In Mind

Medical experts, including UC's Dr. Carl Fichtenbaum, predict that as long as data submitted to the FDA remains as promising as Pfizer's early announcement, there's a strong likelihood teens and preteens will be approved for vaccines this year.

Pollution exposure, preexisting asthma or COPD may raise odds of COVID-19 hospitalization

Among patients with COVID-19 and preexisting asthma or COPD, long-term exposure to air pollution was associated with higher odds for hospitalization, according to results of a pilot study published in *Respiratory Medicine*.

Foodbank honors student-run initiative

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank has recognized the NEOMED student run COVID-19 Relief Initiative as Organizational Volunteer Group of the Year.

Cards connect students with community members during COVID-19



NEOMED's Palliative Care Interest Group (PCIG) is staying engaged with the local community by "adopting" two units at Hattie Larlham, a local nonprofit organization, that takes care of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Can I have a celebratory drink after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

With COVID-19 vaccines becoming readily available across the nation, many people are asking a similar question: Can I have a beer or alcoholic drink to celebrate? "There is no evidence that alcohol reduces the formation of antibodies," NEOMED's Dr. Richard Watkins, told Prevention.



What You Should Know About The New COVID-19 Strains



A virus can't make plans, but it is still driven by one goal: make more viruses. The virus responsible for COVID-19 is no different. OSU's Dr. Dan Jones, shares his expertise on how variants spread, how well the vaccines work against them, and the symptoms these variants cause.

Artificial Intelligence becoming the new way for healthcare students at OSU

OSU's Dr. Douglas Danforth shares details about the AI training he helped develop 4 years ago to help students meet with virtual "patients" online. In light of the pandemic, they've learned this software is now more important than ever for a few reasons.

Global One Health initiative awarded CDC Cooperative Agreement to expand capacity and strengthen public health systems in Ethiopia

As new diseases emerge, the need for health system preparedness across the globe is vital for nations to prevent spread of pathogens, detect, report and respond to epidemics. The current COVID-19 pandemic urgently underscored these needs.



Gov. DeWine Encourages Young People To Get COVID-19 Vaccine During Stop At OU



Gov. Mike DeWine encouraged young people to get the COVID-19 vaccine during a visit to Ohio University. "If we are going to get to herd immunity, if we're going to slow this virus down in Ohio, we have to have our young people who will take it."

Joining forces to administer COVID-19 vaccines

Dr. Kenneth Johnson shared commentary on the logistics and processes of vaccine delivery at OUHCOM, both on campus and beyond, including collaboration with local health departments and student involvement in vaccination efforts.

OHIO's Community Health Programs chosen to distribute COVID vaccines via mobile clinics

The Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine's Community Health Programs will distribute COVID-19 vaccines in southeast Ohio via its mobile clinics. OHIO will work with health departments in counties with the highest need for approximately two months to distribute the vaccines.



Doctors ponder what's ahead after historically light flu season, unprecedented pandemic

As Ohio nears the conclusion of a historically light flu season, medical experts like UT's Dr. Jason Huntley, are looking ahead to how the coronavirus pandemic might reshape our approach to future flu seasons.

Is It Safe To Dine In At A Restaurant After Getting Vaccinated?



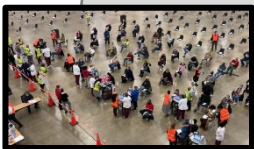
Is it actually safe to dine inside a restaurant after getting vaccinated? "Currently, we think two weeks after vaccination, there is very minimal to no risk of severe illness," said UT's Joan Duggan. "The expectation is that with vaccination, you're not going to spread the virus."

Comparing the COVID-19 Vaccines

Tiffany Russo, an antimicrobial stewardship pharmacist at UTMC, describes the differences between the Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, why the efficacy numbers differ, and why you shouldn't "vaccine shop."



Experts: Don't put off shots; pandemic 'worse than any of the rare side effects'



Valerie Weber, dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine, said she doesn't want to see the Johnson & Johnson news dissuade anyone from getting vaccinated against COVID-19. "The pandemic is worse than any of the rare side effects at this point," Weber said.

It's time to commit to ending racial inequities in healthcare

Racial Inequities and healthcare disparities are not new but are gaining increased and much-needed attention during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Erica Taylor shared her thoughts on what needs to be done to understand the root cause of inequities.

Herd immunity is key to getting back to normal. But will it happen?

Some local health officials believe the coronavirus could largely disappear later this year if enough people get vaccinated, and people follow the right safety practices and don't become complacent. "Herd immunity absolutely is an obtainable goal as long as we continue on the current path."