# As the World Looks Toward Recovery, Animal Surveillance is Key to Preventing Another Pandemic

Researchers are examining which animals may have potential to mutate the virus and pass it back to humans

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The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

## NEWS PACKAGE

| SUGGESTED TEASE  | AS MORE AMERICANS RECEIVE THE<br>CORONAVIRUS VACCINE, RESEARCHERS SAYS<br>ANIMALS ARE KEY TO PREVENTING ANOTHER<br>PANDEMIC AND HELPING THE WORLD CONTINUE TO<br>MOVE TOWARD RECOVERY.<br>DETAILS, COMING UP.   |
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| ANCHOR LEAD<br>(PACKAGE START)   | THROUGH THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF THE<br>SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, EXPERTS WERE ABLE TO<br>UNDERSTAND HOW COVID-19 TRANSMITS,<br>DEVELOP TESTING METHODS AND ROLL OUT A<br>VACCINE IN RECORD TIME, ALLOWING THE WORLD<br>TO BEGIN TO EMERGE FROM A VERY DIFFICULT<br>TIME IN HISTORY — BUT THE FIGHT ISN'T OVER.<br>NOW SOME RESEARCHERS ARE SHIFTING THEIR<br>FOCUS TO ASSESS FUTURE CORONAVIRUS<br>THREATS SO WE DON'T END UP BACK WHERE WE<br>WERE.<br>BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS ON HOW<br>VETERINARIANS ARE LEADING A CHARGE TO<br>PREVENT ANOTHER PANDEMIC. |
| CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State<br>University College of Veterinary           | (Nats - Sound) :02  |
| Medicine<br>:00 - :03<br>Shots of vaccinations<br>Shots of Dr. Hale in lab | AS THE WORLD FIGHTS TO GET COVID-19 UNDER<br>CONTROL, SCIENTISTS ARE LOOKING AHEAD TO<br>ENSURE CORONAVIRUS DOES NOT COME BACK TO<br>ONCE AGAIN CRIPPLE OUR WAY OF LIFE. :07  |
| CG: Dr. Vanessa Hale<br>Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine          | <i>"We're seeing that it's not good enough to just respond to a pandemic, we need to be prepared for it, in terms of strategies and logistics and understanding the science behind spreads." :11</i>  |
| Shots of lab work  | WHILE A LOT OF EFFORT HAS GONE INTO<br>UNDERSTANDING HOW THE VIRUS BEHAVES IN<br>HUMANS, RESEARCHERS AT THE OHIO STATE<br>UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE   |

| Shots of animals at Ohio Wildlife<br>Center | ARE LEADING A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT <sup>1</sup><br>INVOLVING VETERINARIANS, MICROBIOLOGISTS<br>AND EPIDEMIOLOGISTS TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE<br>THAT ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND<br>US PLAY IN FUTURE PANDEMIC THREATS. :15   |
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| Dr. Hale(CG'd earlier)                      | <i>"Is it in animals? Can animals get sick? Can they cause spillover events where animals can infect humans?"And that's really where we're focusing our efforts to predict and prevent future infections." :11</i>  |
| Shots of samples in freezer                 | SCIENTISTS HAVE ALREADY DISCOVERED<br>ANIMALS THAT ARE VULNERABLE TO COVID AND<br>ARE WORKING TO DEVELOP VACCINES SPECIFIC TO<br>THOSE SPECIES. :05   |
| Dr. Hale(CG'd earlier)                      | <i>"We learned that not only can mink get SARS-CoV-2, the virus mutates inside of mink and can also reinfect humans. So this is a really concerning development." :12</i>   |
| Shots of swabbing bats                      | NATS - (Animal testing) :02   |
|   | RESEARCHERS HERE CONTINUE TO TEST PETS,<br>FARM ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE AND ARE LEARNING<br>MORE ABOUT THOSE THAT COULD CARRY THE<br>VIRUS. :07  |
| Dr. Hale(CG'd earlier)                      | "There are a handful of other animals, either<br>demonstrated experimentally or naturally that can be<br>susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. So cats, for example, and big<br>cats like lions and tigers." :11   |
| Shots of pig testing at fair                | IT'S SURVEILLANCE LIKE THIS THAT'S BEEN<br>HELPFUL IN THE PAST TO IDENTIFY NEW STRAINS<br>OF THE FLU THAT COULD MAKE THE JUMP FROM<br>ANIMALS TO HUMANS, AND CORONAVIRUS WILL<br>LIKELY BE A PERMANENT PART OF THESE<br>PREVENTATIVE EFFORTS TO ENSURE WE<br>CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARD A HEALTHIER<br>FUTURE. :10 |
|   | NATS - testing :01  |
| (PACKAGE END)                               | AT THE OHIO STATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY<br>MEDICINE, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING.<br>:03   |
| ANCHOR TAG                                  | THE C-D-C SAYS THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT<br>ANIMALS ARE CURRENTLY PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT<br>ROLE IN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.<br>PART OF THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM ALSO<br>TESTS STORM RUNOFF AND WASTEWATER FOR<br>VIRUSES, WHICH HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE AN  |

| ACCURATE PREDICTOR OF COVID OUTBREAKS.<br>EXPERTS SAY ANIMAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL<br>HEALTH GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH HUMAN HEALTH<br>AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PAYING CLOSE<br>ATTENTION TO HOW THEY ALL TIE TOGETHER HAS<br>NEVER BEEN MORE EVIDENT. | IMENTAL<br>N HEALTH<br>SE |
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### SOCIAL MEDIA

| Share it! Suggested tweet: | As more Americans are vaccinated against COVID-19, scientists at <u>@OSUVetCollege</u> are shifting their focus to better understand how animals can help prevent future pandemics. <u>https://bit.ly/3qcCcth</u>   |
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| Suggested post:            | Researchers at <u>The Ohio State University College of</u><br><u>Veterinary Medicine</u> say animals are key to preventing the<br>next pandemic. They are testing pets, farm animals and<br>wildlife to understand which are susceptible to coronavirus<br>and if they could harbor mutations that could pose a future<br>threat to humans. <u>https://bit.ly/3qcCcth</u> |

# Hale describes how researchers discovered mink were infected: *"Mink presented clinically. So they presented with* respiratory disease, and particularly in Europe, mink are a farmed species. So you may have several 100 to several 1,000 mink together on a farm and when you suddenly see many of them are getting sick or dying, this became an urgent health concern." Hale says this research is important to protecting vulnerable animal populations: "Not only do we want to understand and protect and mink CG: Dr. Vanessa Hale health, we also have some species that could be very **Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine** susceptible to this disease and their populations could be wiped out by something like a viral infection in a black-footed ferret population, or even potentially something like a primate population." Hale explains how wastewater helps identify viruses and predict outbreaks: "We can take wastewater from campus or from the Jackson Pike Wastewater Treatment Plant in Columbus and look into the sequencing data and understand what variants are circulating in Columbus? Do we have the U.K. variant here? What are the most prominent variants? And those data are actually aligning with our patient populations."

#### **EXTRA BITES**

| CG: Dr. Vanessa Hale<br>Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine | Hale explains the collaborative effort of understanding and<br>battling a pandemic:<br><i>"Pandemics really highlight one health, which is human<br/>health, animal health and environmental health. And<br/>veterinarians, as well as environmental microbiologists,<br/>as well as wildlife biologists and epidemiologists are really<br/>essential to understanding the whole dynamic of a<br/>pandemic."</i> |
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#### References

<sup>1</sup>eSCOUT – Environmental Surveillance for COVID-19 in Ohio: Understanding Transmission, **The Ohio State University Center of Microbiome Science, 2020.** Online: https://u.osu.edu/coms/escout/

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