



<p>Shots of animals at Ohio Wildlife Center</p> <p>Dr. Hale(CG'd earlier)</p>	<p>ARE LEADING A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT¹ INVOLVING VETERINARIANS, MICROBIOLOGISTS AND EPIDEMIOLOGISTS TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE THAT ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND US PLAY IN FUTURE PANDEMIC THREATS. :15</p> <p><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></p>
<p>Shots of samples in freezer</p> <p>Dr. Hale(CG'd earlier)</p>	<p>SCIENTISTS HAVE ALREADY DISCOVERED ANIMALS THAT ARE VULNERABLE TO COVID AND ARE WORKING TO DEVELOP VACCINES SPECIFIC TO THOSE SPECIES. :05</p> <p><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></p>
<p>Shots of swabbing bats</p> <p>Dr. Hale(CG'd earlier)</p>	<p>NATS - (Animal testing) :02</p> <p>RESEARCHERS HERE CONTINUE TO TEST PETS, FARM ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE AND ARE LEARNING MORE ABOUT THOSE THAT COULD CARRY THE VIRUS. :07</p> <p><i>“There are a handful of other animals, either demonstrated experimentally or naturally that can be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. So cats, for example, and big cats like lions and tigers.” :11</i></p>
<p>Shots of pig testing at fair</p> <p>(PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p>IT’S SURVEILLANCE LIKE THIS THAT’S BEEN HELPFUL IN THE PAST TO IDENTIFY NEW STRAINS OF THE FLU THAT COULD MAKE THE JUMP FROM ANIMALS TO HUMANS, AND CORONAVIRUS WILL LIKELY BE A PERMANENT PART OF THESE PREVENTATIVE EFFORTS TO ENSURE WE CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARD A HEALTHIER FUTURE. :10</p> <p>NATS - testing :01</p> <p>AT THE OHIO STATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03</p> <hr/> <p>THE C-D-C SAYS THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANIMALS ARE CURRENTLY PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.</p> <p>PART OF THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM ALSO TESTS STORM RUNOFF AND WASTEWATER FOR VIRUSES, WHICH HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE AN</p>

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

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

<p>CG: Dr. Vanessa Hale Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine</p>	<p>Hale describes how researchers discovered mink were infected: <i>“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.”</i></p> <p>Hale says this research is important to protecting vulnerable animal populations: <i>“Not only do we want to understand and protect and mink health, we also have some species that could be very 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.”</i></p> <p>Hale explains how wastewater helps identify viruses and predict outbreaks: <i>“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.”</i></p>
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CG: Dr. Vanessa Hale
Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine

Hale explains the collaborative effort of understanding and battling a pandemic:
“Pandemics really highlight one health, which is human health, animal health and environmental health. And veterinarians, as well as environmental microbiologists, as well as wildlife biologists and epidemiologists are really essential to understanding the whole dynamic of a pandemic.”

References

¹eSCOUT – *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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