



News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Lori Criss, *Director*



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>>> Responding to the Behavioral Health Surge

Behavioral health problems are among the most commonly experienced adverse health effects of a pandemic, and demand for services historically increases during a crisis. Almost everyone in the community where an infectious outbreak occurs will feel some type of emotional effect as general anxiety increases with fear of contamination and death, financial instability and loss, lifestyle changes, and uncertain futures. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) remains committed to meeting the behavioral health needs of all Ohioans across the full continuum of care and services. Click the following links for helpful planning resources.

- [Responding to the Behavioral Health Surge](#)
- [Literature Review: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Behavioral Health of Ohio's Residents](#)

>>> NIMH Instagram Event: How to Cope with Back to School Stress and Anxiety – Aug. 11

Going back to school can be stressful, especially with the added uncertainty surrounding the [COVID-19](#) pandemic. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is hosting a Q&A on its [Instagram](#) story for parents, educators, and teens on **Aug. 11 at 1 p.m. ET**. During this event, participants will be able to ask Krystal Lewis, Ph.D., a licensed clinical psychologist at NIMH, questions you have about stress or anxiety in children and adolescents, as well as how to cope. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) to view the *OhioMHAS Mental Health Resources for Back to School* resource document.

>>> Mental Health First Aid Project Seeks Thirty Candidates for Fall 2020 MHFA Instructor Training

The “Connecting All Ohioans to Mental Health First Aid” Project is a large-scale initiative aimed at providing Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) to 4,000 underrepresented residents in our state. To make this happen, Mental Health America, in partnership with OhioMHAS, Miami University and the Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success, is seeking to train 30 new MHFA Instructors in late October. We are looking for people who are passionate about mental health awareness and dedicated to providing high quality MHFA Training. Interested applicants should complete the [Statewide MHFA Instructor Training Application](#) by Aug. 21. For more information, contact Tori Ivan tivan@mhaohio.org or visit mhaohio.org/get-help/MHFA.



>>> 2020 FASD Virtual Annual Meeting – Sept. 25

The Ohio Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Steering Committee will host the a virtual annual meeting on Sept. 25 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The meeting will feature keynote remarks from Susan Elsworth, founder and CEO of NOFAS Indiana, and special guest Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio Emeritus. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.



>>> New SAMSA Publication: The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic/Latino Population – An Urgent Issue

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Office of Behavioral Health Equity](#) has released a new issue brief: [The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic/Latino Population: An Urgent Issue](#). The opioid crisis has not abated and has had a significant impact on Hispanic/Latino communities in the U.S. This issue brief presents recent data on prevalence of opioid misuse and death rates in the Hispanic/Latino population; contextual factors and challenges to prevention and treatment; innovative outreach and engagement strategies to connect people to evidence-based treatment; and the importance of community voice.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). For behavioral health-specific information, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus>. For behavioral health-related questions, email covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov. For COVID-19-related OTP questions, email OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov, for Housing questions, email COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov and for Telehealth questions, email COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov. COVID Careline 1-800-720-9616. Click [HERE](#) for a list of pop-up COVID-19 Testing Sites.

In the News

8.6.20 | *WCPO-TV* [Hamilton County officials work to reduce racial disparities in overdoses, access to treatment](#)

8.6.20 | *WCPO-TV* [Gambling addiction experts: quarantine isolation could drive some to online gambling addiction](#)

8.5.20 | *WTOV-TV* [Coronavirus affecting mental health, sees rise in suicide rates](#)

8.5.20 | *Sandusky Register* [Big overdose spike reported in Erie County](#)



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