



News Now

Mike DeWine, Governor
Lori Criss, Director



Dec. 21, 2020

>>> Ohio's Regional Psychiatric Hospitals Welcome COVID-19 Vaccine

The first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine began arriving at Ohio's regional psychiatric hospitals this week. The six, state-run facilities, which provide around-the-clock care for nearly 1,000 Ohioans impacted by mental illness, were among the groups identified by Governor Mike DeWine as a priority population to receive the much-anticipated vaccine. The 2,310 doses arriving this week were manufactured by Moderna. (The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is coordinating with local health departments to receive the vaccines. Hospital staff will administer the vaccine to all patients and staff who choose to be vaccinated. After the initial dose, a second dose given approximately one month later. The hospitals prepared for the vaccine by purchasing refrigerators, which will store vials between the recommended 36-46F temperature range. Read the [full media announcement](#).



Pictured: OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss and Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare CEO Frank Beel accept delivery of the vaccine Tuesday afternoon.

>>> "Thank You" Message from OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss

Please take a moment and receive [our appreciation](#) for a job well done in 2020. This has been a challenging year, but we see you striving daily to address the surge in mental health, addiction, emotional distress, and preventing suicide and overdoses across Ohio. We're proud to support you in these efforts and grateful for the opportunity to do so. You are the backbone of behavioral healthcare in Ohio and we celebrate you. Happy Holidays!



>>> COVID-19 Vaccine Questions Mailbox - UPDATE

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) has established a dedicated email inbox for questions related to the COVID-19 vaccination process. The correct email address is BHCOVID19vaccine@mha.ohio.gov. Keep up-to-date on the latest vaccine news and resources by visiting the Ohio Department of Health's [vaccination portal](#). In addition, OhioMHAS has added a [special section](#) to our COVID-19 resources web page for vaccine-related updates.

>>> Crnkovic Appointed Chief Executive Officer at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare

OhioMHAS is pleased to announce the appointment of Elaine Crnkovic as Chief Executive Officer of Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), effective Jan. 4, 2021. Crnkovic will replace Jane Krason, who is retiring after 19 years of service at the Athens hospital. A native of New Mexico, Crnkovic earned a Master's Degree in Marriage & Family Therapy and an Interdisciplinary Doctorate Degree in Marriage & Family Therapy, Educational Management & Development and Curriculum & Instruction from New Mexico State University. She brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in the private sector mental health arena in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Read the [full media announcement](#).



>>> Mark Your Calendar: Reducing Stigma, Gaining Faith in Prevention Forum – Feb. 24, 2021

PreventionFIRST! will be hosting a free "Reducing Stigma, Gaining Faith in Prevention Forum" on Feb. 24, 2021, from 1-3 p.m. The goal for this event is to increase the skills of congregations to implement substance use prevention and advocate for stigma reduction of substance use disorders. Tracy Johnson of TTJ Group, LLC will facilitate the presentation. Funding for the forum is provided by the Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in partnership with OhioMHAS. This educational opportunity is ideal for congregations wanting to build prevention among their members and for coalitions wanting to build their faith sector representation. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register. For questions, contact PF! Senior Director Amanda Conn Starner at aconnstarner@prevention-first.org or 513.751.8000 ext. 13.

For 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, for Telehealth questions, email COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov, and for Vaccine questions email BHCOVID19vaccine@mha.ohio.gov. Ohio Careline 1-800-720-9616. Click [HERE](#) for a list of pop-up COVID-19 Testing Sites and [HERE](#) for the latest SAMHSA COVID-19 training and technical assistance resources.

In the News

- 12.22.20 | *Athens Messenger* [Crnkovic appointed CEO at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare](#)
- 12.22.20 | *Toledo Blade* [Coronavirus vaccinations begin in area nursing homes, assisted living facilities](#)
- 12.22.20 | *Youngstown Business Journal* [Meridian, Neil Kennedy partner to expand detox services](#)
- 12.22.20 | *Cleveland.com* [How the pandemic is messing with kids' mental health: coping through COVID](#)
- 12.21.20 | *WCPN 90.3* [Major increase in calls to Northeast Ohio Mental Health Hotline](#)
- 12.21.20 | *Cincinnati CityBeat* [Pandemic compounds holiday stress for Ohio parents working on sobriety](#)
- 12.21.20 | *WKYC-TV* [Cleveland Clinic Akron General receives \\$700,000 to help with facility upgrades](#)
- 12.20.20 | *Sandusky Register* [Men's recovery housing project will open soon in Erie County](#)
- 12.20.20 | *Warren Tribune-Chronicle* [Pandemic's 'true' toll goes beyond virus](#)
- 12.20.20 | *NBC News* [Mental healthcare has become even more crucial with traumas of 2020 – but resources are stretched thin](#)
- 12.19.20 | *USA Today (Column)* [Four ways to improve your mental health in this unprecedented COVID Christmas season](#)
- 12.18.20 | *WKEF-TV* [COVID-19 fatigue could worsen seasonal affective disorder](#)
- 12.18.20 | *WKTN 95.3* [Over \\$29M in illegal drugs seized this year in task force operations](#)
- 12.18.20 | *WSYX-TV* [Central Ohio Alcoholics Anonymous holding virtual and in-person meeting through holidays](#)
- 12.18.20 | *Highland County Press* [DeWine announces major investment in battle against opioids](#)
- 12.18.20 | *Lorain Morning Journal* [Schools to get funding for prevention programming](#)
- 12.17.20 | *WDTN-TV* [DPS, Dayton Children's continuing to offer mental health support to students during pandemic](#)



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