



October 5, 2020

Dear UNOH Family,

As part of our comprehensive plan to promote a safe environment for students, faculty, and staff during on-campus classes and activities for fall terms, the University of Northwestern Ohio will begin asymptomatic COVID-19 surveillance testing this week. The decision to begin asymptomatic testing follows the strong recommendation from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, along with guidance from the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Higher Education.

The surveillance testing, done initially in partnership with Lima Memorial Health Systems, will provide the University with baseline information about the extent of the virus in our campus community and provide a valuable tool for reducing the spread of the virus. Following the first round of testing, UNOH administration will consult with its Medical Advisory Board to determine how and if asymptomatic surveillance testing will continue throughout fall.

“Limiting the spread of COVID-19 on campus is of vital importance to the safety of our students, faculty, and staff and will allow the University the ability to continue offering face-to-face hands on courses for our students,” said UNOH President, Dr. Jeffrey A. Jarvis. “Combined with our existing protocols, testing asymptomatic individuals, particularly those in high-risk groups, will help us to determine if we need to adjust our strategies moving forward.”

A sample of approximately 70 students will be notified and selected to participate in the first round of asymptomatic surveillance testing. Only those who are selected for asymptomatic testing will be able to receive a test. The cost of test will be covered by the University. Results are expected to be available within 48 hours after samples are collected. As required by law, Allen County Public Health will be notified of any positive test results.

Students who receive a positive diagnosis will be provided guidance on quarantine and isolation, asked to provide information to assist in contact tracing, and receive support from Student Success to ensure academic continuity.

UNOH has developed a webpage to address frequently asked questions and information related to asymptomatic surveillance testing. To access that information, visit the “Return to Campus” page and click on the Asymptomatic Surveillance Testing tab.

Additional questions or concerns can be directed to PublicRelations@unoh.edu

Sincerely,

University Administration

