Dan:

On the next episode of Big Ideas, TXST. Dr. Rodney Rohde returns to the podcast to discuss how much the world medical community has learned about COVID-19 since early March. The staggering death toll the virus has taken in the US and the prospects of navigating the looming third spike this winter.

Dr. Rodney Rohde:

This third surge is just now starting. If you look at the numbers, you also might recall recently in the news, we just hit an all-time record of cases per day. So we had like 83,000 the other day, more than any time during the summer.

Dr. Rodney Rohde:

So we are entering, I think, a very dangerous time period for the country and the world for that period, as we enter the winter months, and we start worrying about people getting indoors. Being outdoors is certainly more healthy, but we've also, again, I'm just going to say it we've failed as, as a country.

Dr. Rodney Rohde:

Early on, we had an opportunity and we still continue to have these opportunities, which we can talk about a little bit of going to a very strong a firm universal mask mandate, actually doing contact tracing, which is hard work in the public health world, but I firmly believe we could still do that.

Dr. Rodney Rohde:

And we continue to have these conversations, why this is happening, but we certainly have not done a good job in the United States. We are the number one country in the world, Dan, that has over 20% of the deaths of the entire world. And our population is not near that of other places around the world.

Dr. Rodney Rohde:

So, I'm frustrated and I'm disappointed in our response in the US. And that is not picking on individuals within a lot of healthcare professions I know. I'm talking about a national strategy for testing, for contact tracing and for social distancing and just following good public health sense.

Dan:

To hear the full interview, listen to Big Ideas, episode 10, available November 2nd. Subscribe to experience more innovative thought-provoking content from Texas State University.