



Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 032020



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

*The times they are a changin'...* here's hoping you and yours are doing well and finding new, comfortable ways of being. The Farley Center team, as well as all non-essential personnel on the Anschutz Medical Campus, are working from home as of last Tuesday until further notice. Here's sending much gratitude to healthcare workers on the front lines as you do everything in your power to help those in need despite the limitations. Do take care.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[\*Family Medicine Ramps Up Virtual Visits: Caring for Patient in the Age of COVID-19\*](#) is a story on the CU DFM News page by Robert Thompson about how Dr. Kyle Knierim is leading the ramp up of virtual medical visits considering today's public health emergency.

[\*Colorado distilleries switch to making hand sanitizer, and they're giving it away free\*](#) is a story in *The Denver Post* by Sarah Kuta about how Spirit Hound distillers in Lyons, CO, began producing hand sanitizer following a recipe from the WHO, and then donating to firefighters and others groups fighting the spread of coronavirus.

[\*How to beat loneliness\*](#) is a story on *Ideas.Ted.Com* by Guy Winch about how emerging from loneliness is more challenging than we realize.

[\*It's Time to Get Serious about Social Distancing. Here's How\*](#) is an NPR story by Maria Godoy and Allison Aubrey whose report may not offer news to you, but are good reminders just the same.

[Coronavirus and Poverty: A Mother Skips Meals So Her Children Can Eat](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Manny Fernandez about how Americans with tight financial resources have fewer options as they navigate coronavirus closures and layoffs.

[U.S. FP Shares COVID-19 Insights from Practice in China](#) is a Q&A piece on the AAFP website about Dr. Laura Jordhen's experiences as both chair of infection control for Shanghai's United Family Xincheng Hospital and chief of its family medicine department. After weathering the worst of the epidemic in China, she returned to Washington state this month to visit her family. She was discouraged by what she found here and spoke with the AAFP News about lessons learned.

[Medical students deploy across Colorado to help combat coronavirus](#) is a story by Lori Jane Gliha for *KDVR* about how medical students are deploying to hospitals, homeless shelters, community centers, other facilities; and organizing hundreds of volunteers to assist managing the coronavirus outbreak.

[People are being told to 'shelter in place' to combat the coronavirus. What does that mean?](#) Is a story on *Yahoo* by Elise Solé about how we should try and function normally while remaining mostly at home, except when seeking food and medicine.

['Please help us' – Many primary care practices paint a dire picture with lack of PPE, tests](#) is a story on *Fierce Health* by Joanne Finnegan



[Responding to COVID-19: Time for Real State-Federal Partnerships](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund President's Blog* by Christopher F. Koller, who suggests that the time is now for the federal government to quickly grant the Healthcare Authority – and agencies in other hard-hit states like California and NY – new authorities under their Medicaid programs.

[A State of Emergency for Hourly-Wage Workers](#) is a story in *The Colorado Trust's newsletter* by Scott Downes about Colorado's emergency ruling and the pending congressional deal, attempts to give some shred of protection for workers who cannot simply miss work with no safety net.

[The Smart Way to Save Jobs in the Time of Coronavirus](#) is an opinion piece by Katharine G. Abraham and Susan N. Houseman for *Politico* about how 20% of U.S. workers have already lost hours or jobs, and how 'shared work' can slow the losses and speed an economic recovery.

[4 reasons America needs a new coronavirus crisis insurance program based on Medicare](#) is an opinion piece in *USA Today* by Joshua Sharfstein and colleagues who suggest borrowing Medicare's medical and billing infrastructure to give everyone in America access to coronavirus diagnosis, treatment and recovery services.

[\*It may be time to waive patients' costs for coronavirus treatment\*](#) is a post on *AXIOS* by Drew Altman who suggests it may be time to look at the substantially higher cost of treatment, the conservative average hospitalization will most likely cost more than \$20,000; and such costs (especially the uninsured), which could scare people away from getting treated.

[\*GOP-led states diverge on easing Medicaid access during COVID-19\*](#) is a story in *Modern Healthcare* by Harris Meyer who reports on how AZ and IA sent requests to the CMS to make temporary changes to their Medicaid programs, while two other Republican-led states, OK and UH push ahead with Medicaid waiver changes intended to tighten eligibility for expanded coverage to low-income adults under the ACA. This illustrates the pull between pragmatic and ideological pressures amid the COVID-19 outbreak.



[\*'Please help us' – Many primary care practices paint a dire picture with lack of PPE, tests\*](#) is a story on *Fierce Health* by Joanne Finnegan about survey results from the Larry A. Green Center in partnership with the Primary Care Collaborative conducted last week to measure the impact of COVID-19 on practices.

[\*Mental Health in California: Understanding Prevalence, System Connections, Service Delivery, and Funding\*](#) is a new, in-depth guide that includes rates of mental illness among CA children, youth and adults; why children in CA's child welfare system and youth in the juvenile justice system often need mental health care; estimates on the number of adults with mental illness who are homeless or in the criminal justice system; and how governance and funding is structured for the public mental health system.

[\*State Data and Policy Actions to Address Coronavirus\*](#) is a comprehensive report with graphs on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site that demonstrates how states are using data and policy actions to address the coronavirus.

[\*The coronavirus' toll on our mental and emotional health\*](#) is a story in *AXIOS* by Sam Baker about a national survey of 1,092 adults conducted last week about the toll on well-being, physical and mental.

[\*Coronavirus: Only one hospital bed for every six 'seriously ill' US patients in event of rapid surge, report says\*](#) is a story in the *Independent* by Chris Riotta about how new reports warn states and hospitals of pending dire straits unless we are able to implement dramatic isolation measures.



The National Center for Medical Legal Partnership seeks a full-time director to lead all facets of project activities and serve as the principal investigator of grants and contracts awarded to support the center's work. For more information and to apply (by March 31, 2020) [click here](#). Ellen Lawton steps down after 14 years.

[\*Anthem inks novel partnerships to link Indiana Medicaid patients to free legal services\*](#) is a story in *Med City News* by Kevin Truong about how Anthem has expanded access to free legal services to all Medicaid patients in 18 counties in Central Indiana to assist with housing, employment and child support issues through a grant to the Indiana Legal Services.



Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

[SUBSCRIBE TO FRIDAY'S FEATURES](#)