



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 041020



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

['Code Blue': A Brooklyn ICU Fights for Each Life in a Coronavirus Surge](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Sheri Fink who tells the story of some of our nation's superheroes.

[Results from Series 4 of the COVID-19 primary care clinician survey](#) are available from the Green Center; and to participate in this week's survey, due Monday, 4/13, (takes only 3 minutes to complete), [click here](#).

[COVID-19: The Triple Threat Against Our Well-Being](#) is the first webinar of a series sponsored by Well Being Trust's policy framework: Healing the Nation. It will be held April 20<sup>th</sup> 11AM MT and will be focused on the social, economic, and health impacts of COVID-19. Panel experts include: Drs. Ben Miller, Dayna Matthew, Carol Graham, and Ashwin Vasan.

[If you've recovered from coronavirus, Colorado hospitals want your blood. It might save another patient's life.](#) is a story in the *Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown how Children's Hospital Colorado was only the third site in the nation to provide transfusion of convalescent plasma, the part of blood collected from patients who have recovered from an infection.

[The COVID-19 Pandemic and Colorado: Epidemiology in Action](#) is a discussion about COVID-19 with members of the Colorado School of Public Health, including the school's dean, Dr. Jonathan Samet, as part of the National Public Health Week. The Zoom presentation will be held April 13<sup>th</sup> noon to 1PM MT.

[ECHO Colorado: A Statewide Partnership Bringing You Up-to-the-Minute Information about COVID-19](#) is an ongoing series Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 7-8AM MT that began March 27<sup>th</sup>. It is sponsored by the CAFPP, CU School of Medicine, and CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences geared toward physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers working in primary care.

[Medieval Plague, Modern Pandemic](#) is a free, 10-week lecture series offered by Roger Martinez-Dávila, associate professor of history, CU Colorado Springs, looking at the modern COVID-19 pandemic through the lens of the Black Death.

The 72<sup>nd</sup> CU Boulder Conference on World Affairs was cancelled but the program committee produced five sessions addressing our challenging times. These presentations can be [accessed here](#).



[16 Teachings from COVID-19](#) is a post on *Daily Good* (a portal for sharing inspirational quotes and news stories that focus on the ‘good’ we can find in our world) by Marian Brehmer who points out that the Chinese word for crisis consists of two characters that represent danger and opportunity

[How Epidemics of the Past Changed the Way Americans Lived](#) is a story on *Smithsonian Magazine* by Katherine A. Foss who writes how past public health crises inspired innovations in infrastructure, education, fundraising and civic debate.

[COVID-19 Resources](#) includes mental health and addiction resources compiled by the American Society of Addiction Medicine Caring for Patients During the COVID-19 Task Force.

[A crisis mental-health hotline has seen an 891% spike](#) is a story by Amanda Jackson for CNN about how the Disaster Distress Helpline, a national helpline run by SAMHSA, saw a 338% increase in call volume compared with February, and compared to the month of March in 2019, they had an 891% increase of call.

[Suicide calls in California have spiked during coronavirus crisis](#) is a story in *The Sacramento Bee* by Theresa Clift about how calls and texts to a California suicide prevention and crisis line increased by 40% between February and March.

[The COVID-19 crisis too few are talking about: health care workers' mental health](#) is an opinion piece on *STAT* by Jessica Gold, a psychiatrist, who discusses a potential mental health crisis facing health care workers on the frontlines of this pandemic.

[5 ways public health departments protect your community](#) is an infographic tweeted by Brian C. Castrucci as to why public health matters.

[Coronavirus Pandemic: Evergreen Doctor Is First in Colorado to Be Treated with Convalescent Plasma](#) is a story by Kathy Walsh for *CBS Denver* about the first person in Colorado to be treated with convalescent plasma, serum made up of blood (antibodies) from someone who recovered from the disease.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[\*Medicaid and the Future of Health Care Hot-Spotting\*](#) is an issue brief by Joel C. Cantor posted on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site in which the author considers questions relevant to Medicaid agencies, such as whether targeting patients with repeated hospitalizations makes sense; if care management is sufficient; and what outcomes we should expect hot-spotting interventions to improve.

[\*On the Front Lines of COVID-19: A Blueprint from Washington State\*](#) is an issue brief by Susan Birch, director, Washington State Health Care Authority (oversees care for 2.5 million Medicaid beneficiaries and public employees and an integral part of the state's efforts to combat COVID-19) and colleagues for the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site that outlines the major initiatives taken and the lessons learned in this intense and historic six-week period.

[\*Coronavirus: Family physicians provide telehealth care at risk of bankruptcy\*](#) is an opinion piece in *USA Today* by Dr. Jack Westfall and colleagues discuss how overnight primary care clinicians are having to transition to providing care for patients via telehealth, in lieu of in person visits...and yet they won't be paid for much of the care they provide, which requires that they make huge sacrifices.

[\*Mental illness is epidemic within the coronavirus pandemic\*](#) is an opinion piece by Ben Miller for *USA Today* who calls for more action of policymakers relative to mental health. This country was in a mental health crisis before the onset of the coronavirus, and now it's as if pouring gasoline on a wildfire.

[\*Responding to the Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic\*](#) is a set of mental health policy priorities being proposed for the next round of emergency funding discussions.

[\*COVID-19: Expected Implications for Medicaid and State Budgets\*](#) is a story by Robin Rudowitz for the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site about the importance of monitoring what happens to individuals who lose income and may qualify for Medicaid or become uninsured as unemployment claims spike, and what this means for state budgets.

[\*A pandemic lesson on treating the mentally ill\*](#) is a story in the *Daily News* by Steve Leifman and Norm Ornstein who highlights the dire twin issues of serious mental illness and criminal justice reform, and how this crisis provides the opportunity to deal more broadly with these problems.



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[\*Coronavirus Pandemic-Related Potential Family Medicine Office Closures and\*](#)

[\*Economic Impact, April-June 2020\*](#) is a *HealthLandscape* mapping tool that highlights potential impact of family medicine physicians closing practices related to the pandemic.

[\*Preliminary Investigation of the Association Between COVID-19 and Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in the U.S.\*](#) is an article on *PsyArXiv Preprints* by Brooke Ammerman and colleagues about an online survey designed to better understand the presence and extent of the association between COVID-19-related experiences and past-month suicidal thoughts and behaviors among adults in the United States.

[\*Potential out-of-pocket costs for patients requiring hospitalization for COVID-19\*](#) is a report by Milliman who used healthcare claims data from three large, national research databases to investigate the variation in out-of-pocket costs for patients who historically experienced acute inpatient hospitalizations involving treatment of acute respiratory infections (Pneumonia and influenza).

[\*COVID-19 Impact on Medicaid, Marketplace, and the Uninsured, by State\*](#) contains estimates by the Health Management Associates about how the economic downturn primarily driven by the COVID-19 pandemic could impact enrollment in Medicaid, the ACA marketplaces, employer-sponsored coverage, as well as the potential change in the number of uninsured individuals.



[\*Human Rights Dimensions of COVID-19 Response\*](#) is a resource document posted on *Human Rights Watch* that provides an overview of human rights concerns posed by the coronavirus outbreak, drawing on examples of government responses to date, and recommends ways governments and other actors can respect human rights in their response.

[\*Financing Medical-Legal Partnerships: View from the Field\*](#) is an issue brief published by MLP Fundamentals and authored by Jennifer Trott and colleagues and funded by RWJF. The fact sheet draws on national survey data to describe how MLP are adapting to meet their funding challenges.



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