



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 050820



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

The results from the [Green Center's Series](#) 8 Quick COVID-19 survey are now available. Clinicians predict primary care will be overwhelmed with pent up demand and 38% expect to see non-COVID-related deaths due to lack of access or delayed care. A quarter of respondents fear that the medical profession has lost the public's trust. For those of you who wish to contribute to this week's survey (due May 11th), you can access the form [here](#).

Coding support for Colorado clinicians: [Pam Ballou-Nelson](#), RN, CMPE, MA, MSPH, PhD; MGMA consultant, 877.275.6462, ext. 1877

[Proven Preventive Medicine Coding Tactics During and After COVID-19](#) is an expert-led 60-minute online coding training May 20<sup>th</sup>, 11AM MT with Kim Garner Huey who will provide step-by-step guidance on how to get paid for preventive medicine services during the pandemic.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[What Is Contact Tracing? Here's How It Could Be Used to Help Fight Coronavirus](#) is a story in *Time* by Alejandro de la Garza who provides the basics of the time-tested public health strategy, and hope for its use in the coronavirus pandemic.

[For Colorado Kids, Coronavirus is Triggering a Range of Emotions](#) is a story posted on *The Colorado Trust* site by Jenny McCoy who discusses how kids are being affected during this pandemic, and talks with folks who provide ways to help them navigate and manage emotions, fears and questions.

[\*Opinion: Paying the Price for May\*](#) is an opinion piece on *News and Guts* that includes a compilation of tweets from Andy Slavitt, former Obama administration health official, who emphasizes we won't pay the price for letting down our guard in May, until June.

[\*Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong\*](#) is a Ted Talk by Johann Hari who unearthed some surprising and hopeful ways of thinking about an age-old problem.

[\*Seniors with COVID-19 Show Unusual Symptoms Doctors Say\*](#) is a story by Judith Graham for *Kaiser Health News* who reports that older adults may not exhibit the typical symptoms relative to how older bodies respond to illness and infection.

[\*How 2 Colorado Tech Companies Are Helping UCHealth Cope with COVID-19\*](#) is a story on *Built In Colorado* by Nona Tepper about how the investment in telemedicine by the University of Colorado Hospital was prescient. Pre-COVID, doctors were conducting on average 20 virtual patient visits per day and growing 1200% day over day.

[\*The Urgent Need for Nature During and After COVID-19\*](#) is a posting on *Grant Makers in Health* by Gail Christopher, Executive Director, National Collaborative for Health Equity; Kim Moore Bailey, Chief Executive Officer, Youth Outside; and Tyler Norris, Chief Executive, Well Being Trust who suggest that improving equity in access to green space will help combat health inequities.



[\*Online Hill Briefing – The Stakes for Primary Care\*](#) is a recording of the briefing held last week that includes Dr. Becca Etz, co-director of the Green Center, who talks about the Impact of COVID-19 on primary care access and the urgent need for action. Worth your time.

[\*Colorado receives money for telemedicine and health innovation projects\*](#) is a story by Willis Scott for *KRDO* about how CMMS approved \$7.9 million in COVID-19 emergency funding to help pay for telemedicine and other health care projects in Colorado.

[\*Is COVID-19 an Extinction-Level Event for Primary Care?\*](#) is another story about the three practice leaders who described being stressed to the financial breaking point as part of the online Hill briefing with Becca Etz, this one posted on *Healthcare Innovation* by David Rath.

[\*Doctors without Patients: 'Our Waiting Rooms Are Like Ghost Towns'\*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Reed Abelson about how small practices are struggling to survive as visits plummet because of the coronavirus. Dr. Becca Etz was interviewed about the Green Center's COVID-19 survey data.

[\*New House bill would forgive student loans for healthcare workers treating COVID-19 patients\*](#) is a story by Alex Hider for *The Denver Channel* about a bill that proposes that the federal government forgive the student debt loans of healthcare workers treating COVID-19.

[\*Ten Weeks to Crush the Curve\*](#) is an editorial in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Harvey Fineberg who says the goal is to crush the curve—China did this in Wuhan, and we can do it here in 10 weeks. He outlines six steps to mobilize and organize the nation that would allow us to defeat COVID-19 by early June.

[\*Colorado public health insurance option bill put on hold due to COVID-19\*](#) is a story by Ryan Osborne for *The Denver Channel* about how lawmakers are withdrawing legislation for a public health insurance option until next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[\*In the Wake of COVID-19, Colorado Expands Telemedicine Options for Medicaid Clients\*](#) is a story on *The Colorado Trust* site by Fran Kritz about how in March Health First Colorado (state Medicaid program managed by the Colorado Dept. of Health Care Policy and Financing) made telehealth visits available to more people in the state. Dr. Kyle Knierim, CU Family Medicine doc, reported the biggest change is that live chats and phone calls are being reimbursed equivalent to in-person visits.

[\*Primary care is being devastated by COVID-19. It must be saved\*](#) is an opinion piece on *STAT* by Daniel Horn, Wayne Altman and Zirui Song about how primary care could be the United States' next casualty given how primary care practices (half are small businesses) rely on an outdated payment model.

[\*States cut Medicaid as millions of jobless workers look to safety nets\*](#) is a story on *Politico* by Rachel Rouben and Dan Goldberg about how three states have cut back state spending on the program since the pandemic hit, and more are warning of painful cuts to benefits and services.

[\*There is no viable reason to say 'no' to Medicaid expansion\*](#) is an opinion piece in the *Tennessean* by Craig Fitzhugh who believes that no sound, rational, fiscal, or moral excuse exists to say no to Medicaid expansion.



[\*The State of Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Health of Children and Youth in the United States\*](#) contains the proceedings of a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine workshop presented to a group of stakeholders involved with youth and families to highlight potential solutions.

[\*Colorado Ecosystem of Early Childhood Ventures, Orgs, and Supports\*](#) is an interactive map that shows Colorado services tied to serving children and families that shows the interconnectedness of the work being done across the state around complex challenges facing children.

[\*Using COVID-19 to Strengthen the WHO: Promoting Health and Science Above Politics\*](#) is an article in *The Milbank Quarterly* newsletter by Lawrence O. Gostin and Sarah Wetter about Trump's attack on the WHO, and offer hope that out of a crisis can come historic opportunity to strengthen WHO to become the health agency the world desperately needs.

[\*The Secret Group of Scientists and Billionaires Pushing a Manhattan Project for COVID-19\*](#) is a story in *The Wall Street Journal* by Rob Copeland about how a dozen of America's top scientists and a collection of billionaires and industry titans say they have the answer to the coronavirus pandemic, and they found a backdoor to delivery their plan to the White House.

[\*'Deaths of despair': Coronavirus pandemic could push suicide, drug deaths as high as 150k, study says\*](#) is a story in *USA Today* by Jayne O'Donnell about a new Well Being Trust/AAFP study that estimates how related deaths from alcohol, drug overdose and suicide could reach 150,000. Ben Miller is Well Being Trust's chief strategy officer. [Another piece about the same. And another.](#)

[\*Are we speaking the same mental health language\*](#) is a post on the *UGA Today* site by Laurie Anderson who reports on a study out of the UGA School of Social Work that found that African Americans and mental health groups use different terms to describe mental health problems among African Americans.

[\*Shootings Are a Glaring Exception to the Coronavirus Crime Drop\*](#) is a story on *The Trace* by Daniel Nass about how data shows gun violence outpacing other types of crime in several major cities and running higher than 2019 levels nationally.



[\*Unemployment Assistance\*](#) is a video from attorney Melanie Gleason with Lawyers for Civil Rights in Boston who shares practical tips on unemployment assistant benefits there.

[\*Know Your Emergency Rights\*](#) is a video presentation by Lauren Sampson and Ethan McDonough of Lawyers for Civil Rights who provide a quick overview of rights in an emergency like COVID-19.



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