



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 071720



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

UCHealth/CU School of Medicine is one of several sites in the country participating in a trial of a potential COVID-10 vaccine developed by Moderna Inc. of Cambridge, Mass. [The Anschutz campus is recruiting 1,000 patients for this trial.](#) Unlike traditional vaccines that expose participants to a small amount of virus, this vaccine focuses on the genetic code of the coronavirus and its spike protein.

[*Pharmacy School First in Colorado to Offer Graduate-level Cannabis Education*](#) is a press release posted on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus site by Sara Knuth about how the success of introductory course indicated a need for advanced medical and science education. The new programs include: 1) graduate certificate in cannabis science and medicine, and 2) master's degree in pharmaceutical sciences: cannabis science and medicine specialty track.

[*What's ECHOing Now*](#) provides information about the summer series of Zoom sessions that offers health care providers and staff working in health care settings strategies to navigate normalize and hold space for worries and experiences during this pandemic.

[*Change your life and those around you with these 23 inspiring new books from TED speakers*](#) is a posting on *Ideas.TED.com* by Imani La Tortue who provides a list and summary of worthy Ted Talks about inspirational books.

[*A New Photo Series Opens Representations of Men of Color*](#) is a story in *Westword* by Kyle Harris about how artist, Christina Pittaluga, who created a portrait series, "Are We Still Cool?" with accompanying essays that allowed men of color to feel and share their full range of emotions and recast them as sensitive humans.

[*The Carter Center Awards Eight U.S. Journalists Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism*](#) is a story on *Mental Health Journalism* about how the Carter Center will train fellows on effective mental health reporting and support them as they report on a mental health topic of their choice – Susan

Greene of *The Colorado Independent*, being one of the eight.

[*Advancing the Mental Health of the Nation with Ben Miller of Well Being Trust*](#) is a podcast from *The Great Battlefield: How the resistance is mobilizing* podcasts in which Ben Miller discusses his career at the intersection of politics and mental health. Thanks, Ben.

A blue banner with a white background. At the top, there is a silhouette of a diverse group of people in various colors (green, purple, blue, pink). Below the silhouette, the text "COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION" is written in white, uppercase letters.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Colorado governor stands firm against issuing statewide mask mandate*](#) is a story in *The Denver Post* by Saja Hindi about how new coronavirus infections and hospitalizations are rising again yet Gov. Polis declined to issue a statewide order mandating mask-wearing in public. Daniel Goldberg, public health law and ethics professor at the Anschutz campus believes the downsides of a statewide mandate outweigh the risks.

[*DPS responds to board member concerns over in-person learning*](#) is a Fox 31 News story by Erika Gonzalez that quotes Dr. Michelle Barron, medical director for infection prevention at UHealth, saying that Denver Public Schools are making sound decisions about reopening schools based on the available information. [*Some pediatric doctors believe students should return to in-person learning.*](#)

[*'That's Crazy': Reopening Schools Is Possible but We're Doing It Wrong*](#) is a story on *POLITICO* by Zach Stanton who interviewed economist, Emily Oster, who weighs in about the risks and benefits of kids returning to school in person this summer.

[*Mental Health and COVID-19: How the Pandemic Complicates Current Gaps in Care and What Can Be Done*](#) is a webinar from May sponsored by Dialogue4Health featuring Wendy Ellis, Jill Harkavy-Friedman and Ben Miller who address the unique challenges for mental health in the wake of COVID-19, discuss current advocacy efforts to improve the mental health system, what specialized resources in response to the pandemic have been released to date, and what else may be needed.

[*It Is Time to Stop Stigmatizing Mental Health among Healthcare Workers*](#) is a *Forbes* story by Jessica Gold who writes about the powerful display of people normalizing mental health treatment following the death by suicide of a well-respected emergency medicine physician during COVID-19.

A blue banner with a white background. At the top, there is a silhouette of the Colorado State Capitol building. Below the silhouette, the text "POLICY EFFORTS" is written in white, uppercase letters.

POLICY EFFORTS

[*Psychiatrist: America's 'Extremely Punitive' Prisons Make Mental Illness Worse*](#) is an NPR story by Dave Davies about the experiences of psychiatrist,

Christine Montross, a Guggenheim fellow, who says it's unrealistic to imagine that people can emerge from prison psychologically intact. She advocates for rethinking the U.S. approach to mental illness and incarceration and studied Norway's prison system before writing her book, [*Waiting for an Echo: The Madness of American Incarceration*](#).

[*July 2020: People Over Politics – Policy Recommendations for Next Federal Relief Package*](#) includes federal recommendations by the United States of Care for the next relief package. The top three priorities are: 1) support the ongoing robust public health response, 2) support people and states, and 3) transform health care for the future.

[*4 ways mental health professionals are better trained than police to de-escalate a crisis without violence*](#) is a story on the *Insider* by Julia Naftulin where two psychiatrists and a licensed therapist discuss their years-long training crisis control and how proponents of defunding law enforcement often suggest reallocating funds to mental health professionals. They also explain how police and mental health professionals can partner.

[*Where Telemedicine Falls Short*](#) is a post on *The Commonwealth Fund* by Dr. David Blumenthal who expresses skepticism about telemedicine replacing the value of the traditional in-person doctor/patient relationship that is based on trust, laying on of hands, and the use of all senses.

[*Colorado, like other states, trims health programs amid health crisis*](#) is a story in the *Colorado Sun* by Markian Hawryluk about how Colorado, faced with budgetary shortfalls, is cutting spending for needed behavioral health services.



[*Engaging with Communities – Lessons \(Re\) Learned from COVID-19*](#) is a commentary for *Preventing Chronic Disease* by Lloyd Michener, Lauren Hughes and colleagues as part of the U.S. Public Health Response to COVID-19 and Chronic Disease special supplement. This article highlights the opportunity to apply lessons from COVID-10 for sustained changes in how public health and its partners work collectively to prevent disease and promote health, especially with our most vulnerable communities.

[*One-third of caregivers say Alzheimer's patients have access to guns at home, study finds*](#) is a story on CNN by Sandee LaMotte about a new study led by Dr. Emmy Betz, emergency medicine doc at CU School of Medicine, that discusses the wisdom of making a plan for when loved ones are unfit to handle guns in the home.

[*Projected Deaths of Despair from COVID-19*](#) is a report from the Well Being Trust and the Robert Graham Center by Drs. Steve Petterson, Jack Westfall and Ben Miller. The goal of the report is to predict what deaths of despair we might see based on three assumptions during COVID-19: 1) economic recovery, 2) relationship between deaths of despair and unemployment, and 3)

geography.

[*In Shadow of Pandemic, U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths Resurge to Records*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Josh Katz and colleagues about how drug deaths in America that fell for the first time in 25 years in 2018, rose to record numbers in 2019 and are continuing to climb, a resurgence that is being complicated and perhaps worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

[*How mental health care should change as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic*](#) is a position paper in *The Lancet* by Dr. Carmen Moreno and colleagues, who write about how an international group of physicians, mental health experts and users of mental health services came together to reflect on the challenges for mental health that COVID-19 poses. They suggest that the pandemic could be an opportunity to improve mental health services.

[*A new tool for tracking vulnerability and premature mortality in America*](#) is a story posted on the *Brookings* site by Carol Graham who writes about the new “science” of well-being measurement that focuses on the links between well-being and ill-being with a focus on hope and life outcomes.

[*Mental Health and Substance Use State Fact Sheets*](#) is an analysis and series of state fact sheets that examines mental health and substance use disorder needs and the capacity to meet them, which is posted on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site.

[*As COVID Hits Hard in Minority Communities, Concerns Rise about Mental Health and Suicide Risks*](#) provides summaries from the week of health policy coverage from major news organizations.



[*Impact of a medical-legal partnership program on readmissions to a family medicine inpatient service*](#) is a preprint and hasn't yet been certified by peer review on *medRxiv*. This study was designed to determine if the need for legal services was a significant predictor of all-cause hospital readmission within 30 days of discharge.

[*Medical-Legal Partnerships to Enhance Residency Training in Advance Care Planning*](#) is a brief report in *Family Medicine* by Dr. Jessie M. Pettit and colleagues about a curriculum created to improve residents' comfort and skill discussing advance care planning with patients.



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