



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[\*The integrity of science is vital – politics cannot interfere\*](#) is an OpEd on *The Hill* by Gerald T. Keusch, Richard D. Klausner and Kenneth Olden, and signed by 135 other NAM members [many of whom we know].

*Synopsis: In late April on the instructions of the White House, NIH cancelled a highly ranked grant to a New York research organization to study the transmission of bat coronaviruses to humans. The political nature of the action is fully documented and represents an unprecedented subversion of the peer review system at NIH. Leadership at HHS and NIH have refused to respond to many calls for a transparent review of the sequence of events and to reverse the cancellation if there is no legitimate scientific or management concern to warrant it. Oversight of American science cannot be allowed to be politicized.*

[Open letter](#) from Dr. Howard Bauchner, Editor-in-Chief, JAMA and the JAMA Network, in support of Dr. Anthony Fauci and science.

[\*At the Heart of the Matter: Our Race Shapes Our Realities\*](#) is a recording of yesterday's Colorado Health Foundation webinar hosted by Karen McNeil-Miller about the starkly different realities Coloradans experience across the state, and the roots of those realities. [Read more here](#) on the UHSU family medicine website about the road map for how primary care should respond to a pandemic.

[\*MATRC Telehealth Resources for COVID-19 Toolkit\*](#) is a compilation on the Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center site of their most frequently asked questions and requested resources into this this COVID-19 Toolkit.

[\*In the Bubble with Andy Slavitt\*](#) is a series of podcasts with Andy Slavitt relative to the global pandemic.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[\*Health Care Comes to Us\*](#) is a newsletter story for a *NY Times* series by Shira Ovide who interviewed Ben Miller about how technology doesn't have to cure the coronavirus to be an enabler for good.

[\*Seniors who struggle with technology face telehealth challenges and social isolation\*](#) is a CNN story by Judith Graham about how seniors with dementia, hearing loss or impaired vision face barriers to telehealth medicine. [A blog post from May](#) in *Health Affairs* flags how ensuring the growth of telehealth during COVID does not exacerbate disparities in care.

[\*Chronic absenteeism in school linked to poor mental health\*](#) is a story posted on *Urban Health Media* by Camal Shorter, a senior at Coolidge High School and a member of the Urban Health Media Project, who discusses the link between school attendance and good health, specifically mental health.

[\*A Mental-Health Crisis Is Burning Across the American West\*](#) is a story in *The Atlantic* by Jacob Stern who talks about how nine of the 10 most destructive fires in the state's recorded history have occurred in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – six in the past four years alone. He talks of how the physical ruin is only part of the aftermath... 10-30% of wildfire survivors develop diagnosable mental health conditions, including PTSD and depression.

[\*Reporting and Resilience: How Journalists Are Managing their Mental Health\*](#) is a story on *Nieman Reports* by Ricki Morell about how amidst a global pandemic, racial tumult and decimated newsrooms, journalists are learning how to cope so they can keep reporting.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[\*Reexamining Medicare Payment Reforms in Light of COVID-19\*](#) is a commentary on *NEJM Catalyst: Innovations in Care Delivery* by Christopher F. Koller and Patrick H. Conway who suggest that beyond the focus on the cost of care and the quality of care, payment reform in the post-COVID era should include a third standard: epidemic mitigation.

[\*How Much Fiscal Relief Can States Expect from the Temporary Increase in the Medicaid FMAP?\*](#) is an issue brief on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Robin Rudowitz and colleagues that examines how much fiscal relief states can expect from the increase in the federal medical assistance percentages (FMAP) under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act under different assumptions about the duration of the relief, how the FMAP increase provides broad fiscal relief to states and the factors that affect how much relief is available across states.

[\*Infographic: How states are expanding telehealth coverage for mental health services\*](#) presents a summary on *Med City News* by Elise Reuter of the changes enacted in some states to make it easier for patients to access mental health services via telehealth during the pandemic.

[\*Voters Want More from Elected Officials on Mental Health Care\*](#) are the results from an online survey conducted by Benenson Strategy Group on behalf of Well Being Trust and Viacom CBS Entertainment & Youth Group with an “n” of 1,701 Americans 13 years and older to understand attitudes toward mental health care. The survey included 1,317 registered voters aged 18 years and older.

[\*There are two COVID Americas. One hopes for an extension of federal unemployment and stimulus. The other is saving and spending.\*](#) Is a story in *USA Today* by Jessica Menton the split in America due to the coronavirus recession...those who are still financially intact, and others facing lasting scars. Policymakers will debate whether more emergency stimulus checks and extra unemployment payments are needed to keep jobless people afloat.

[\*Another Problem on the Health Horizon: Medicare Is Running Out of Money\*](#) is an *NPR* story by Julie Rovner about how the pandemic is accelerating a problem that used to be front and center in health circles: the impending insolvency of Medicare.

[\*Answer the call: Preventing suicide in the time of COVID-19\*](#) is an opinion piece by Sonja Wasden on *The Hill* who cites many recent studies and makes a plea to government officials, policy makers, health care providers, business leaders, parents and individuals to stay informed about strategies and resources available to prevent suicide and ensure the mental wellness of all Americans especially given the troubles facing people today.

[\*‘States duking it out for supply’” Lack of federal plan leads to coronavirus testing delays\*](#) is a story in *USA Today* by Janye O’Donnell and Ken Alltucker about how labs are performing more COVID tests than ever, lab workers are strained and states are bidding against one another for the same, limited supplies.



[\*Redesigning Primary Care to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Midst of the Pandemic\*](#) is an article in *Family Medicine* by Dr. Alex H. Krist and colleagues who use the established public health framework for addressing a pandemic to describe the actions primary care needs to take in a pandemic. Recommended actions are based on observed experiences of the authors’ primary care practices and networks.

[\*Provision Drug Overdose Death Counts\*](#) is a “Vital Statistics Rapid Release” on the CDC NCHS site of data visualization that presents provision accounts for drug overdose deaths based on a current flow of mortality data in the National

Vital Statistics System flagging that our national must take mental health and addiction more seriously. Data indicate we're moving in the wrong direction. Chris Cuomo on [Cuomo Prime Time](#) talks with Dr. Nora Wolkow, director of the NIDA, about how drug overdoses are soaring amid the pandemic.

[Thoughts of Suicide, Other Mental Health Struggles Still High for LGBTQ Youth](#) is an NPR story by Brianna Scott and Sam Leeds who discuss findings from the second annual survey on LGBTQ youth mental health by The Trevor Project. The data (n=40,000 people aged 13 to 24 years) was collected between December 2019 and March 2020, and indicated that 68% said they'd experienced generalized anxiety disorder in the past two weeks at the time of the survey.

[Advancing Primary Care through Alternative Payment Models: Lessons from the United States & Canada](#) is a commentary by Andrew Bazemore and colleagues in the *JABFM* that reviews learnings from a 2017 binational symposium of 150 experts in policy and research that included a discussion of ongoing APM experiments in the United States and Canada – suggesting we don't put too much weight on solutions that are only driven by fee for service.

[After Asking Americans to Sacrifice in Shutdown, Leaders Failed to Control Virus](#) is a news analysis in the *New York Times* by Sabrina Tavernise and colleagues who, as COVID cases surge, talk about how many governors underestimated the coronavirus and rushed to reopen before their states were ready.

[Mental health before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: A longitudinal probability sample survey of the UK population](#) is an article in *The Lancet* by Dr. Matthias Pierce and colleagues who examined changes in adult mental health in the UK population before and during the lockdown.

[Trump said more COVID-19 testing 'creates more cases.' We did the math](#) is an article posted on *STAT* by Sharon Begley about a new analysis of testing data for all 50 states and the District of Columbia that shows why Trump's claim (testing creates more cases) is wrong.



Colorado Access has awarded the Farley Health Policy Center and partners funding to develop and pilot a tele-legal program in two primary care clinics in Denver.

[Medical-Legal-Psychology Partnerships – Innovation in Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Pediatric Primary Care](#) is an article in *Science Direct* by Dr. Rachel Lawton and colleagues who introduce an integrated model that explicitly brings child psychologists into the MLP to create a medical-legal-psychology partnership.

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