



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 082120



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Q&A: Work still needed before COVID-19 vaccine trial can begin in Colorado](#) is a story by Allison Levine for *9News* who reports about the national Moderna vaccine trial (phase III clinical trial) to be conducted in ~90 sites, of which the University of Colorado Hospital is one. Recruitment of the 1,000 patients for the trial has not yet happened.

[LETTER: CU medical students create plan for racial justice in curriculum and local community](#) is a letter to the editor of *Sentinel Colorado* by Rachael Weesner, a CU SOM student, about an advocacy group on campus, the Black Student Collective; and she invites folks to sign a resolution as an ally in the pursuit of racial justice.

To participate in week's Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey from the Green Center due 8/24, you can [access it here](#).



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Wolf Administration Launches Mental Health Resources Guide](#) is a post on PA Gov. Tom Wolf's site about online mental health resources for Pennsylvanians, stressing that during these times it's okay to not be ok.

[The hazards of digital mental health is a story on Mobile Health News](#) by Isobel Rosenthal and Sofia Noori who discuss why so few digital mental health tools are based in evidence. The answer is complicated and clinical research practices have not caught up to the speed of technology.

[COVID-19 vaccines could become mandatory. Here's how it might work](#) is a story in *National Geographic* by Jillian Kramer who reports on the future

possibilities when it comes to the COVID-19 vaccine requirements. Healthy policy experts envision vaccine mandates could be instituted and enforced by local governments or employers – like the current vaccine requirements for school-age children, military personnel and hospital workers.

[\*Why \(some\) parents don't vaccinate\*](#) presents ideas via Ideas.Ted.Com from Natasja Sheriff about the necessity of changing the way we communicate about vaccine hesitancy, one of the biggest threats to public health.

[\*Your 'Surge Capacity' Is Depleted – It's Why You Feel Awful\*](#) is an article on *Elemental Medium* by Tara Haelle who offers suggestions for pulling ourselves out of despair and live life. She describes surge capacity as a collection of adaptive systems – mental and physical – that humans draw on for short-term survival in acutely stressful situations, such as natural disasters; but reminds us that pandemics are different and they demonstrate the limits of surge capacity.

[\*Virginia launches smartphone app to trace COVID-19 spread\*](#) is a video clip in which Dr. Norm Oliver, Virginia's Department of Health commissioner, discusses how the 'first-in-the-nation' COVID exposure notification app is helping mitigate the spread of the virus while protecting Virginians' privacy. [Click here to learn more.](#)



[\*With Billions at Stake, States Plan Dividing Purdue Opioid Money\*](#) is a story on *Bloomberg Law* by Valerie Bauman and Alex Wolf who write about a draft proposal obtained by Bloomberg Law that suggests billions from the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy could fund wider use of opioid overdose treatments, programs for babies born addicted, and support programs for mothers and people in jail.

[\*City votes to hire mental health coordinator to aid in psychological emergencies, conduct research\*](#) is a story in the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* by Joe Severino about a 24-2 vote by the city council to fully fund a two-year position that will be responsible for direct care services to people experiencing mental health crises and conduct outreach efforts in the city; and will work alongside the Charleston Police Department, and provide training on mental health issues for officers.

[\*Ranit Mishori: The United States needs a formal inquiry into our public health catastrophe\*](#) is a commentary for *The BMJ Opinion* by Ranit Mishori, professor of family medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine and senior medical advisor at Physicians for Human Rights, who addresses the incompetence of the United States to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, insisting that a full understanding of this unprecedented public health disaster requires that we look at the “political determinants” of health.

[\*Will the Coronavirus Force the US to Reckon with its Epidemic of Despair?\*](#) is a post in the *Harvard Political Review* by Jack Silvers that calls out the fault of

the U.S. health care system in this epidemic of despair, and that solutions during and after the pandemic must be multifaceted.

[\*Insurance roadblocks hamper access to vital mental health\*](#) is a commentary in the *Boston Herald* by Patrick Kennedy who calls out how insurance companies are worsening the mental health impact of the pandemic by making it difficult for patients to access antidepressants, antipsychotics and other desperately needed medications.



[\*Racial Disproportionality in Covid Clinical Trials\*](#) is a commentary in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Daniel B. Chastain and colleagues who call out the necessity of prioritizing the inclusion of populations that reflect the demographics of the ongoing pandemic in clinical trials; as well as increasing funding for scientists from underrepresented ethnic groups.

[\*Linking Young Adults to Mental Health Services through Social Media and Campus-Based Peer Advocacy\*](#) is a collaborative report by the Young Invincibles Network and the Adolescent and Young Adult Health National Resource Center that describes the work to date and recommendations of Young Invincibles who set out to reduce stigma and reduce the barriers to care for college students with mental health concerns via a digital ad awareness campaign and a campus-based initiative meant to expand existing services.

[\*U.S. Health Insurance Coverage in 2020: A Looming Crisis in Affordability\*](#) is a brief posted on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Sara R. Collins and colleagues who report on findings from the Commonwealth Fund Biennial Health Insurance Survey, 2020 that aimed to assess the extent and quality of coverage for U.S. working-age adults.

[\*Fighting Back against the Stigma of Addiction\*](#) is an article in *Scientific American* by Nora D. Volkow about how demonizing people addicted to drugs or alcohol only makes the problem worse.

[\*Behavioral Health Patients Drive Nearly 57% of Health Care Costs – Yet Little Spent on Behavioral treatment\*](#) is a story on *Behavioral Health Business* by Bailey Bryant who discusses data from a new Milliman report commissioned by The Path Forward for Mental Health and Substance Use and funded by the Bowman Family Foundation. The analysis breaks down the prevalence of behavioral health conditions within the total patient population and among the highest-cost patients.

[\*LGBTQ youth say cost, parental permission pose major barriers to mental health care\*](#) is a posting on *STAT* by Juliet Isselbacher about a large new survey by the Trevor Project (a national organization focused on suicide prevention among LGBTQ teens and young adults) that found that while most LGBTQ young people want access to mental health treatment, many don't receive it.

[\*CDC study sheds new light on mental health crisis linked to coronavirus pandemic\*](#) is a story by Jacqueline Howard and Andrea Kane for CNN about how recent CDC data shows how broad the pandemic's impact on mental health might be and the need to prevent and treat these conditions (survey n=5,412 adults living in the United States, June 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>).

[\*The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use\*](#) is an issue brief on the Kaiser Family Foundation site by Nirmita Panchal and colleagues with results from a recent KFF Tracking Poll of U.S. adults. It indicates that 50% of respondents reported that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to worry and stress over the coronavirus. This report also explores substance use in light of the pandemic.



[\*Virus Turns Up Pressure on Medical-Legal Partnerships\*](#) is a story in *Law 360* by Jack Karp who shares a story that emphasizes the beauty of MLPs. And then goes on to discuss access to services that keep one's family safe being even more important in the wake of the pandemic.

[\*Homeless ranks will grow when renters are evicted\*](#) was a column in the *Daily Memphian* by Heather Bornstein and Allen Heaston last May that discusses the homeless situation resulting from the pandemic in Tennessee, the eviction moratoriums, and puts forward policy recommendations that may alleviate financial burdens once the moratoriums end.

[\*Clinic Students Pivot Amidst Pandemic\*](#) is a post on *The University of Memphis* site about how students involved with the Memphis Law's MLP Clinic changed 'course' once in-person classes were cancelled.



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