



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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Editor: Linda Niebauer

<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/farleyhealthpolicycenter>



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[A place to call home](#) is the topic for Ben Miller's newsletter this week in which he discusses how a focus on housing insecurity matters when it comes to mental health.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[CDC Endorses Pfizer Booster Shots for Millions](#) is an 8-minute CBS News video and interview by Lana Zak that addresses the latest news on the decision to offer the Pfizer booster and includes a segment by our very own Dr. Shale Wong, pediatrician, and Executive Director of the Farley Health Policy Center.

[The COVID-19 Pandemic: Making evidence-based decisions – as the CDC Director decides about boosters](#) is this week's commentary from Dr. Jon Samet, Dean, Colorado School of Public Health.

[Tools for Support Emotional Wellbeing in Children and Youth](#) is a post on the NASEM site containing resources created to teach skills that can help children and youth cope with some of the challenges associated with the pandemic.

[10 Common Return-to-Work Concerns – and How to Mentally Prepare for Them](#) is a post on *Self* by Dr. Jessica A. Gold, a psychiatrist, who provides scenarios and ideas for adjusting and easing anxiety.

[How to Be Helpful to a Coworker Dealing with a Mental Health Challenge](#) is a *Forbes* story by Nicole Lipkin who provides ideas and reminders on how to be

an ally to colleagues who are struggling.

[\*\*Athletes Are Shifting the Narrative Around Mental Health at Work\*\*](#) is a story in the *Harvard Business Review* by Alyson Meister and Maude Lavanchy who write how recent instances of high-profile athletes prioritizing their mental health, along with organized efforts from the sports industry, have triggered an important shift in the narrative of mental health in sports...something company leaders could learn from the sports world's mental health momentum.

[\*\*University of Colorado faces COVID religious exemption suit\*\*](#) is an *AP News* story by Patty Nieberg about a pediatrician and a medical student at the University of Colorado who are challenging denials of their requests for religious exemptions from the school's vaccination mandate.

[\*\*Defying Delta: Back to school goes better than feared\*\*](#) is a *Reuters* story by Michael Erman and colleagues who reports that in a dozen countries with high vaccination rates in Asia, Europe and the United States; case rates that surged in August have mostly fallen back, which is defying worst fears about kids returning to school.



[\*\*Coverage of Dental, Vision, and Hearing Services in Medicare: The Window of Opportunity is Open\*\*](#) is an opinion piece by Drs. Amber Willink and Karen Davis in *JAMA*.

[\*\*Strategic Approaches to Utilization of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Support Older Adults\*\*](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Madeleine Shea and Aaron Tripp that discusses how the American Rescue Plan Act could enhance home- and community-based services through its temporary increase in the federal match for certain Medicaid spending as well as other funding to bolster traditional programs and services.

[\*\*Facebook grilled by lawmakers over mental health impact on children\*\*](#) is a story on *CNET* by Queenie Wong about the Senate hearing, Protecting Kids Online: Facebook, Instagram, and Mental Health Harms.

[\*\*Big Tech should pay for damaging mental health\*\*](#) is an opinion piece on *The Hill* by Nathaniel Counts who reports on research showing Instagram is harmful to the mental health of roughly one-third of teen girls, with Black girls impacted most severely.

[\*\*T.R. Reid: The best health care plan for Colorado is still universal coverage\*\*](#) is an opinion piece by T.R. Reid in the *Denver Post* about Colorado's ongoing problem of overly expensive healthcare, and how one solution keeps rising to the top.

[\*\*Long Hours, Low Pay, Loneliness and a Booming Industry\*\*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Liz Donovan and Muriel Alarcón who write how the ranks of home health aides are expected to grow more than any other job in the next

decade, what they're being asked to do, and for what pay.

[“This increase is absolutely amazing:” Caregivers rejoice over \\$15 minimum wage](#) is a *KOAA News5* story by Mayo Davison that reports how the Colorado Joint Budget Committee voted 5-1 to approve a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for direct care workers funded with any state dollars working in-home and community-based settings and includes personal care workers, homemakers, direct support professionals, and others.

[Senate Passes Legislation on Mental Health for Health Care Professionals](#) is a post on *Policy & Medicine* by Thomas Sullivan that reports on S.610/HR 1667, which passed the Senate unanimously and aims to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, and mental/behavioral health conditions among health care professionals.

[Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part II Interim Final Rule with Comment Period](#) is a fact sheet on *CMS.gov* about the interim final rule that establishes new protections from surprise billing and excessive cost sharing for consumers.



[COVID Burnout Rises Among Colorado’s Public Health Leaders](#) is a *US News* story by Carol McKinley that provides data indicating that more than 40% of local public health leaders in Colorado have left their positions, mostly due to COVID fatigue.

[Advocates spotlight an overlooked cause of maternal mortality: mental health](#) is a story on *Cronkite News* by Mikenzie Hammel who reports on study findings that hones in on conditions linked to behavioral health that lead to pregnancy-related deaths.

[Financing That Rewards Better Health and Well-Being : Proceedings of a Workshop – in Brief](#) is a report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine that summarizes discussions that occurred throughout a workshop series, which took place this past summer that focused on the need to transform the United States’ current model of health care financing.

[Association Between K-12 School Mask Policies and School-Associated COVID-19 Outbreaks – Maricopa and Pima Counties, Arizona, July-August 2021](#) is a CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report by Dr. Megan Jehn and colleagues who report on data indicating that schools without mask mandates have higher rates of COVID-19.



[A Systematic Review of Medical-Legal Partnerships Serving Immigrant Communities in the United States](#) is a review paper on *springer.com* by Avery League and colleagues that demonstrates the benefits of a legal-medical partnership, such as enhancing, documenting and care for immigrants and facilitating a greater attention to political determinants of health.

[How medical-legal partnerships help address the social determinants of mental health](#) is an article in the *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing* by Vicki Girard and colleagues who write about how the “patients-to-policy” approach used by MLPs aptly showcases that such interdisciplinary models of care are not only vehicles for improving individual health, but also effective in creating long-lasting systemic change on population.

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