



April 17 – 23, 2020

Distributed by the University of Colorado School of Medicine



[“It’s the virus’s world”: The balancing act of reopening Colorado without widespread testing](#)

“There’s the best way to do this and then there’s the way we’re gonna have to do this,” said **Daniel Goldberg**, an associate professor of epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health [and the Center for Bioethics and Humanities]. “There’s not an ideal way. It’s not our world — it’s the virus’s world.”

Denver Post, April 20, 2020

[Could COVID-19 Immunity Certificates Help Reopen America – Or Create More Class Divide?](#)

But beyond the logistics, immunity cards themselves also raise some serious ethical and legal questions, given that they are based on the concept of dividing society into two classes of people: those who have COVID-19 immunity, and those who don’t. “My instinct is that this doesn’t seem like a very good idea for a variety of different reasons,” **Daniel Goldberg**, an attorney and associate professor at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus tells *Rolling Stone*.

Rolling Stone, April 21, 2020



[Colorado health care workers on the front lines of coronavirus fight speak out: “I’m afraid about being dead”](#)

Darlene Tad-y, the Colorado Hospital Association’s vice president for clinical affairs, did not exactly downplay the severity of the problem. In an interview Wednesday, Tad-y, who also practices medicine at UHealth University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora [and is associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], said it speaks volumes that the state’s 81 acute-care hospitals are now operating under a “[Crisis Standards of Care](#)” agreement, which lays out protocols for both the present and the worst-case scenario.



“I’m seeing young people come in,” said **Lisa Marie Babayan**, a physician assistant at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at CU School of Medicine], “and they’re people in their 30s, 40s, coming in, and they look one way, you think it’s straightforward, you think you’ve seen it 100 times. Then their vitals are looking worse, they’re not getting better with your supportive care. And you wonder what you’re missing.”

Denver Post, April 18, 2020



[Daily Cheers Give Morale Boost to Medical Workers Fighting Coronavirus](#)

Marc Moss, a professor of medicine [at CU School of Medicine] who has studied health-care-worker burnout, said nurses and doctors who work in the ICU traditionally have high rates of anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress syndrome and suicidal thoughts.... Support from the public also helps. “Does it feel good when you hear the 8 p.m. howl? Of course it does,” he said. “It’s nice to feel recognized and like you’re part of a broader community.”

Wall Street Journal, April 18, 2020



[Colorado doctors: Patients put themselves at risk as ER visits plunge amid coronavirus](#)

Patients “didn’t want to overwhelm or bother us,” said **Richard Zane**, chief innovation officer for UCHealth and chair of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. “I promise you, you are not bothering us. We are ready and able and want to take care of you. Do not hesitate to come in.”

Coloradoan (Fort Collins), April 22, 2020

[As Colorado nears new ‘Safer at Home’ guidelines, some doctors concerned about ‘loosening social distancing’](#)

Richard Zane, who is the Chief Innovation Officer for UCHealth and Chair of Emergency Medicine for the University of Colorado School of Medicine, is among those concerned. “I’m very worried about loosening social distancing because it is the only thing we have. It’s the only thing we have to combat this virus and the spread — and it appears to be working,” said Zane.

Fox31, April 22, 2020



[Here's What Colorado's New Normal Might Look Like In A Best-Case Coronavirus Scenario](#)

For weeks, the pandemic response effort in Colorado and the U.S. has hinged in part on testing, which has lagged badly behind demand. That may be about to change. "We are on a precipice to ramp up" both more standard tests and more rapid tests, said **Michael Wilson**, [professor of pathology at CU School of Medicine] who directs lab services at Denver Health Medical Center, one of the state's key test labs.



Michelle Barron, medical director of infection prevention at the University of Colorado Hospital [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], said, so far, "The swab test is really quite good in terms of being able to detect active virus."

CPR News, April 16, 2020



[What can be done to protect vulnerable nursing homes?](#)

Jeffrey Wallace, a gerontologist with the University of Colorado Hospital [and CU School of Medicine], tells TODAY's AI Roker how he believes we can protect vulnerable nursing home residents during the coronavirus pandemic.

Today, April 29, 2020



[How did we get here? Why the black community is being hit hardest by COVID-19](#)

Erik Wallace, Associate Dean for the Colorado Springs Branch, at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, says environment and other social determinants are also factors. When one category of people are considered unequal in society, the effects of that linger, making its way into our schools, our jobs, our housing, and our health care system. "You may have a population where you have a decreased access to healthy food, lack of transportation, and a lack of high quality education," Wallace explained.

KOAA (Colorado Springs), April 20, 2020



[UCHealth: Patients skipping ER visits due to COVID-19 fears](#)

Since the pandemic began, UCHealth has added virtual visits to more than 700 clinics. Demand for the service has increased more than 1,000 percent. “We were doing something like 100 visits a day pre-COVID and now we’re literally doing thousands of virtual visits a day,” said **Jean Kutner**, chief medical officer at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

Fox31, April 20, 2020

[People with deadly ailments are avoiding Colorado hospitals because they’re afraid of catching coronavirus](#)

“We are being very safe, very clean,” said **Jean Kutner**, chief medical officer of UCHealth’s University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora. “We have all the personal protective equipment so that we are not transmitting between patients. I think people can feel safe coming to the hospital and not contracting coronavirus here.”

Colorado Sun, April 22, 2020



[What are the long-term health consequences of COVID-19?](#)

“We’re going to see enormous populations of people who have convalesced — who have survived the virus. Then the question is: Do we need to give them echocardiograms? Do we need to do other things to surveil for whatever the long-term (consequences) are?” said **Andrew Freeman**, a cardiologist at National Jewish Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], and a member of the American College of Cardiology’s COVID-19 Response Work Group. “I don’t think we know the answers to those questions yet.”

Today, April 16, 2020



[Executive order catalyzes graduation of nursing students in hopes of bolstering workforce](#)

CU School of Medicine’s 2020 graduating class will begin their residencies in July. “We will continue to watch the epidemic in Colorado and prepare our students for the transition to residency and the workforce this July when, as one of our class leaders said, they will be ready to ‘come in off the bench’ full of anticipation and commitment to the profession they have been called to,” **Shanta Zimmer**, senior associate dean for education and professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, said in a written statement.

Coloradoan, April 16, 2020



[Denver dialysis centers separating patients with coronavirus to try to protect those at high risk](#)

Michel Chonchol, a nephrologist at University of Colorado Hospital [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], said kidney disease interferes with the immune system, making patients on dialysis more vulnerable to all types of infections. At the same time, potassium levels in the blood can quickly build up to unsafe levels if patients miss a dialysis appointment, putting them at risk for cardiac arrest, he said.

Denver Post, April 18, 2020



[In desperate need for N95 masks, Children's Hospital buys time for Colorado Springs-area medical providers](#)

Children's had been doing just that for its own providers since early February, using procedures set in place by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said **Sara Saporta-Keating**, an epidemiologist with Children's [and assistant professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine]. "We have a really great group of epidemiologists throughout the country, and this one was one of the protocols being shared in the epidemiological community," she said. "We thought it would be a great jumping-off point."

Colorado Springs Gazette, April 21, 2020



[Med students decorate Children's Hospital Colorado sidewalks](#)

Megan Kunkel is a third-year medical student with CU School of Medicine who was out there this morning with five of her peers. FOX21 spoke with Kunkel, and she says they really just wanted to thank the staff and bring a smile to their day. These students have been out of clinicals since the middle of March and have only had limited interactions with each other.

Fox21 (Colorado Springs), April 16, 2020



[To know when the peak has passed, we need better COVID-19 modeling](#)

Colorado Public Radio [reported that](#) **Kathryn Colborn**, an associate professor in the Department of Surgery on the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus, said "hospitalizations — rather than predicted cases — is the number she plans to watch most closely."

The Hill, April 16, 2020



[Hopeful Coronavirus News: Doctors Learn More About Treatment](#)

Todd Bull, a pulmonologist and critical care doctor at the University of Colorado, tells me they've been seeing similar cases. "I'm covering nights at the ICU and going to see patients and they say they feel okay," he says, "while their oxygen is plummeting."



When doctors use a ventilator, they heavily sedate a patient, then thread a tube into the lungs to pump in air. The technique can save lives by allowing the lungs to heal from damage inflicted by the virus, says **Michael Mohning**, a pulmonary critical care doctor [and instructor at CU School of Medicine] treating Covid-19 patients at National Jewish Health in Denver.

Bloomberg Opinion, April 16, 2020



[Covid-19 and suicide: an uncertain connection](#)

Opinion by **Emmy Betz**, an emergency physician and researcher at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus: "The stress of isolation has brought focus to creative ways to connect with others, whether it is through virtual religious observances or best practices for teleworking. There's renewed attention to the importance of sharing emotions and the mental health benefits of exercise. For many, it has slowed down life by cancelling business trips and social commitments, resulting in more time with family and potentially stronger and healthier emotional connections."

STAT, April 22, 2020



[Community-wide effort leads to homeless isolation shelter opening](#)

"Our homeless neighbors often have high prevalence of chronic conditions and suppressed immune systems that make them particularly vulnerable to a severe course of illness if they get infected with coronavirus," said Medical Advisor **Heather Cassidy** [assistant professor of medicine and director of community engagement for the CU School of Medicine Colorado Springs Branch].

Fox21 (Colorado Springs), April 16, 2020

[Isolation shelter sees few visitors, at least for now](#)

“Individuals who have been experiencing homelessness, particularly chronic homelessness, have a high burden of chronic diseases that make them more susceptible to getting a severe infection,” says **Heather Cassidy**, community engagement director at the University of Colorado School of Medicine’s Colorado Springs branch. Health problems coupled with high-density shelter environments create a “perfect storm” that could allow the virus to wreak havoc on the homeless population, she adds.

Colorado Springs Indy, April 22, 2020



[How Climate Change Is Putting Doctors In The Hot Seat](#)

“There are so many really brilliant, smart clinicians who have no clue” about the link between climate change and human health, said **Jay Lemery**, a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine who has also written a textbook and started a fellowship on the topic.

Kaiser Health News, April 20, 2020



[New insight into the neural circuitry underlying irritability and anxiety in youths when processing social threat](#)

Study author **Joel Stoddard** of the University of Colorado and Children’s Hospital Colorado, explained: “When I was early in my career, I began to appreciate that even though ‘anxiety’ and ‘irritability’ seem like straightforward symptoms, their presentation is often intermingled. We simply don’t know why they co-occur or conversely why a child might have one symptom but not the other.”

PsyPost, April 21, 2020