



April 24 – 30, 2020

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['If not me, who?' Denver ICU doctors talk about treating COVID-19 patients](#)

As of Thursday, Denver Health had 64 COVID-19 patients. Fourteen of them were on ventilators. And since the beginning of the year, the hospital has treated and discharged 175 coronavirus patients. "We've had some extraordinary successes," said **Ivor Douglas**, [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine and] the director of the hospital's medical intensive care unit.



"I love seeing people get better and I thrive on it," said **Katie McPherson**, who recently finished a fellowship at Denver Health. She's a pulmonologist who's treated close to 100 COVID-19 patients.

*Fox31, April 23, 2020*



['Silent hypoxia' may be killing COVID-19 patients. But there's hope.](#)

"This is not a new phenomenon," said **Marc Moss**, the division head of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. There are other conditions in which patients are extremely low on oxygen but don't feel any sense of suffocation or lack of air, Moss told Live Science. For example, some congenital heart defects cause circulation to bypass the lungs, meaning the blood is poorly oxygenated.

*LiveScience, April 23, 2020*



### [Coronavirus Patient Released From ICU After 34 Days, Convalescent Plasma Treatment](#)

“There were many factors that contributed to saving his life, but I do believe that convalescent plasma is one of them,” said **Mary Berg**, Medical Director of Transfusion Services at University Hospital [and professor of clinical practice of pathology at CU School of Medicine].

*CBS4, April 29, 2020*



### [Drug Tested In Colorado Shows Promise In Shortening Coronavirus Symptoms](#)

Early results from clinical trials of remdesivir, an antiviral drug that has been tested in Colorado hospitals on patients with COVID-19, show that those treated with the drug may be getting better faster, with fewer deaths. “What I can say is that many patients have gotten better,” said **Thomas Campbell**, professor in the CU School of Medicine. He’s one of the physicians leading remdesivir clinical trials at UHealth University of Colorado Hospital.

*CPR News, April 29, 2020*

### [Trials for promising COVID-19 drug happening in Colorado](#)

The trials started in February, and about a month ago, CU became involved. To date, 31 patients from UHealth have been a part of the trial. “It’s very exciting,” said **Thomas Campbell**, a professor at the CU School of Medicine and part of a team that’s leading the trial at UHealth. “This may change things for patients with COVID-19 in that we may now have a proven effective treatment.”

*Fox31, April 29, 2020*

### [UHealth part of remdesivir clinical trial to determine how long experimental drug should be used](#)

UHealth University of Colorado Hospital is one of 150 hospitals around the world participating in the Gilead trial to determine if remdesivir should be given for five days or ten. “We did not see a significant differences in benefit from five days to ten days,” said **Thomas Campbell**, a professor at the CU School of Medicine and is helping to spearhead UHealth’s portion of the study.

*Channel 7, April 29, 2020*



### [What Does Remdesivir, Possible Treatment For Coronavirus, Do?](#)

“Do you think the drug is working?” Gionet asked **Connie Price**, the Chief Medical Officer at Denver Health Medical Center [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “I think so, all early indications are that it is, and we need more data,” Price responded. “It prevents the virus from getting into the cell and replicating.”



“Oh yes, yes, very exciting,” explained University of Colorado Professor Emeritus **Kathryn Holmes**, about the drug’s results. Holmes worked for years studying the SARS virus, which is also a coronavirus.

*CBS4, April 30, 2020*



### [This CU Professor’s Research Could Hold a Clue to Treating COVID-19](#)

**Mercedes Rincon**, a Spanish-born professor in CU’s Department of Immunology and Microbiology, has been studying a relatively obscure molecule known as interleukin-6 (IL-6) since 1994.

*5280, April 26, 2020*

### [Colorado COVID diaries: A day in the life of people across the state as they navigate coronavirus](#)

For nearly three decades, **Mercedes Rincon** has studied a molecule so obscure and unremarkable that even her colleagues tease her about it. The Spanish-born professor in the University of Colorado’s Department of Immunology and Microbiology was doing postdoctoral work at Yale when she stumbled upon an article about interleukin-6, or IL-6.

*Colorado Sun, April 26, 2020*



### [Why Colorado Can’t Get Enough Coronavirus Tests – And Why It’s Starting To Reopen Anyway](#)

To support his decision to move ahead, Polis cited models from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus which show aggressive testing and containment would only allow for slightly lower levels of social distancing.... **Kathryn Colborn**, one of the researchers on the modeling team, said the work suggests social distancing remains the most powerful tool to stop the spread of the disease.



For example, on April 21, about 2,200 tests were completed and reported. “It’s been a huge challenge,” said [Sam Dominguez](#), [associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine] who heads up testing at Children’s Hospital Colorado, the first hospital in the state to set up its own COVID-19 testing site.



Hospitals and health care systems, which are doing much of the testing, say it’s slowly getting easier to get supplies. “Over time that supply chain has opened up and now we have the capacity to do many more tests than we could initially,” said **Tom MacKenzie**, the chief quality officer at Denver Health [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].



“It just means that we’re in a steady-state where we have more capacity to care for patients than there are very ill or sick COVID patients,” said **Richard Zane**, chief innovation officer at UCHealth [and chair of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “And that’s really important. And as long as social distancing continues, I feel very confident that we’ll get through this.”



Other public health researchers say testing may be able to catch up, given the increased and growing availability. “I think it (testing) has significantly improved, and certainly from where we started to where we are now, it’s like night and day,” said **Michelle Barron**, [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] who specializes in infectious disease at UC Health.

*CPR News, April 23, 2020*



### [COVID-19: Do the economic consequences outweigh the health benefits of the stay-at-home order?](#)

“Social distancing is the single most important thing that you can do for the state of Colorado, for your family, for Coloradans, for your neighbors. It is the most important thing,” said **Richard Zane**, UCHealth chief innovation officer and emergency services executive director [and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*Channel 7, April 23, 2020*

### [Colorado Coronavirus Updates For April 27: Reopenings, Testing, Cases And More](#)

The University of Colorado hospital system currently has about 200 COVID-19 patients, with about half of those in intensive care, according to CU's chair of emergency medicine, **Richard Zane**. He said experts are watching the data closely to detect outbreaks early and tighten rules in communities where caseloads are growing. "We're hyper-aware of what the next step is and what the risks of the next phase are," he said.

*CPR News, April 27, 2020*



### [CU budget losses could top \\$1B](#)

The University of Colorado could lose more than \$1 billion in revenue if the system's four campuses are required to continue remote learning through the 2020-2021 school year.... CU is looking at eliminating raises, furloughs, layoffs, pay cuts, less travel, less financial aid provided by the university and fewer student services to balance the budget, [Chief Financial Officer Todd] Saliman said. "The degree to which we lean on these budget balancing options depends on how deep the cuts are," he said. Each campus is currently developing plans for 5%, 10% and 20% cuts to their operating budgets.

*Daily Camera, April 29, 2020*



### [Coronavirus Pandemic Forces Telehealth To Take Off](#)

"Patients are on board," said **Michael Narkewicz**, [professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine and] Executive, Provider of Strategic Partnerships. He's in charge of telehealth at Children's. He says the hospital used to do about 100 virtual visits a week. The coronavirus pandemic has pushed it to about 6,000 weekly. "We really achieved a three year strategic plan in three weeks," said Narkewicz.



Children's isn't alone. At UCHHealth, since the spread of COVID-19, the number of virtual visits per day has jumped from 20 to 260. "And now every single provider within UCHHealth has the capability to deliver care virtually," said **Chris Davis**, Medical Director for Virtual Health [and associate professor of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*CBS4, April 29, 2020*



### [University of Colorado implements virtual spine physical exam during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

The relaxation of regulations and requirements of telemedicine from CMS and some insurance companies allowed physicians at University of Colorado to convert their clinics from in-person to virtual appointments, according to **Vikas V. Patel**, executive vice chair of the department of orthopedic surgery at the University of Colorado.

*Healio, April 24, 2020*



### [Coloradan 'Super Excited' To Finally Be Able To Have Her Back Surgery](#)

“Now, her functionality is at risk,” said **Evalina Burger**, Lori’s surgeon and Professor and Chair of Orthopedics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine on the Anschutz Medical Campus. Burger is getting Hopper into the operating room just one day after the elective surgery ban was lifted. “Our hospital is actually more safe than going to the grocery store,” said Burger.

*CBS4, April 27, 2020*



### [Vaccine Rates Drop Dangerously as Parents Avoid Doctor's Visits](#)

“The last thing we want as the collateral damage of Covid-19 are outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, which we will almost certainly see if there continues to be a drop in vaccine uptake,” said **Sean T. O’Leary**, a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics’ committee on infectious diseases [and associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine].

*The New York Times, April 23, 2020*

### [Colorado’s already low childhood immunization rates plummet as parents put off doctor visits](#)

“It is an impending crisis,” said **Sean O’Leary**, an associate professor of pediatrics and infectious diseases at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Children’s Hospital Colorado, as well as a vaccination expert on the national board of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

*Colorado Sun, April 29, 2020*

### [COVID-19 Has Kids Missing Vaccinations, Meaning One Outbreak Could Lead To Another](#)

“We’ve heard at the federal level that orders for vaccines from the Vaccines For Children program and CDC have been down,” said **Sean O’Leary**, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at the University of Colorado Anschutz and Children’s Hospital Colorado.

*Wyoming Public Media, April 28, 2020*



### [Dr. Matt Mishkind – Mental Health Care Without Leaving Home](#)

Sheltering in place doesn’t mean you can’t get mental health care -- in fact, we all likely need it more than ever. We talk to **Matt Mishkind**, assistant professor of family medicine and deputy director of the Johnson Depression Center, about the world of mental healthcare, delivered remotely. Podcast of the George W. Bush Institute.

*The Strategerist, April 21, 2020*



### [Helping kids transition to life after the pandemic](#)

“Even just the structure of our lives is completely different. We’ve lost all of our usual support and things that just help us function as families,” said **Laura Anthony**, a psychologist at the Children’s Hospital Colorado [and professor of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine].

*Channel 7, April 23, 2020*



### [Italy, UK explore possible COVID-19 link to child inflammatory disease](#)

**Sean O’Leary**, a paediatric infectious diseases expert at Children’s Hospital Colorado [and CU School of Medicine] who is part of that AAP committee, said his hospital has seen several cases of Kawasaki this year, but none in the more than 30 children admitted for COVID-19. “Even if it is related, is a very rare complication,” he said. “If it were more common, we’d already have a pretty good idea about it in the United States.”

*Reuters, April 27, 2020*



### [COVID-19 Is Causing Blood Clots and Strokes in Some Patients – but Doctors Don’t Know Why](#)

Inflammation may also play a big role in blood clotting among COVID-19 patients. “When there is very active and severe inflammation in the body, the surface of blood vessels can become disturbed and the clotting system can be activated,” **Kathryn Hassell**, a hematologist at UHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], tells *Health*.

*Health, April 27, 2020*



[Treating blood clots, kidney injuries and other problems linked to COVID-19 could save lives](#)

Among a group of COVID-19 patients in intensive care at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, some “are literally clotting off every blood vessel in their body,” said transplant surgery fellow **Hunter Moore**. He added these patients’ blood clots are not breaking down, so 30% of them have strokes, and half of them have blood clots blocking blood flow to the lungs.

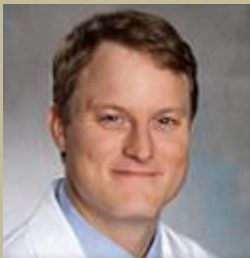
*WHYY (Philadelphia), April 28, 2020*



[Denver doctors get FDA approval to start COVID-19 treatment study](#)

“We believe this is pivotal in being able to have patients come off the ventilator,” said **Gene Moore**, a trauma surgeon at Denver Health [and professor of surgery at CU School of Medicine]. Moore is working with his two doctor sons, Hunter and Peter, as well as researchers affiliated with Harvard and MIT.

*Fox31, April 28, 2020*



[COVID-19’s Impact on Patients and Care Providers](#)

**Marc Bonaca** of the University of Colorado in Aurora, Colorado: “We are trying to do everything virtually for our patients with vascular disease. The need to come back for recurrent procedures or other issues is a real problem because we don’t want them to get infected. It’s a very fragile population.”

*MD Magazine, April 28, 2020*



[The Great Invader: How COVID-19 Attacks Every Organ](#)

The brain and nerves may also fall prey to direct attack. **Kenneth Tyler**, chair of the Department of Neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, cautions that direct central nervous system (CNS) attack is still being worked out at this time. There are many routes a virus could take to invade the CNS.

*Medscape, April 23, 2020*





### [In This Together: Aurora First Responders Celebrate Health Care Heroes With Parking Lot Parade](#)

There was a bit of commotion outside of a few hospitals in Aurora Thursday night, but it was all for a good cause. Several first responders from the local police and fire departments visited Children's Hospital Colorado and University of Colorado Hospital to celebrate healthcare workers and encourage patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

*CBS4, April 24, 2020*



### [Could mass screening benefit kids at high risk of diabetes?](#)

**Marian Rewers**, executive director of the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, is leading the screening trial in Colorado. So far, his study has tested nearly 25,000 children, with results similar to Ziegler's: two DKA cases among the 22 children who have developed diabetes.

*Science, April 23, 2020*



### [Intratumoral mRNA-2416 monotherapy appears safe for patients with solid tumors](#)

"Of note, the majority of patients with ovarian cancer included in the study achieved a best overall response of stable disease along with noted clinical observation of tumor regression in injected as well as uninjected lesions, which supports further investigation of this tumor type," **Antonio Jimeno**, professor in the [division] of medical oncology at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, said during a presentation.

*Healio, April 28, 2020*