April 3 – 9, 2020
Distributed by the University of Colorado School of Medicine

Why are Colorado hospitals sending people with coronavirus home? There’s not much they can do.

“There are no medical therapies, there are no drugs we can give these patients,” said Marc Moss, who leads the pulmonology and critical care departments at the University of Colorado medical school. “There are clearly things we do for these patients that are beneficial and improve their chances of survival.”

“People get upset that they’re coming to you looking for an answer to whether or not they have COVID and that answer doesn’t change what I do,” said Stephen Wolf, director of service for emergency medicine at Denver Health [and professor of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine].

Richard Zane, chief innovation officer and head of emergency services at UHealth, said Coloradans can help doctors by staying home and continuing to avoid contact with others. “We will define our own destiny by how we can do this,” he said. “There is no ambiguity about that. As bored as they are and as hard as this is, doing this for the next two to five weeks — whatever that number is — will be absolutely destiny-defining for the state of Colorado.”

Colorado Sun, April 3, 2020

Why Do Some People Get Sicker?

Infectious disease experts like Daniel M. Pastula, a neuroinfectious disease specialist at UHealth [and CU School of Medicine], says viral dose could matter — a lot. “The lower the viral dose that you may get, we do think that there’s a better chance for your immune system to recognize what’s going on and fight it off before it causes problems,” he told CBS4’s Alan Gionet.
### CBS4, April 7, 2020

**Colorado health team projects 33,277 deaths by June 1 in worst case, 379 in best case**

The COVID-19 crisis in Colorado could lead to 941,312 infections by May 7, peak hospitalization of 57,086 on May 14, and 33,277 deaths by June 1 — depending on collective physical distancing, according to projections presented to Gov. Jared Polis that state health officials made public Sunday afternoon. …The team includes experts from the University of Colorado School of Medicine at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, CU Boulder and CU Denver.

*Denver Post, April 6, 2020*

### Colorado COVID-19 outbreak could peak April 17, modeling shows

But Kathryn Colborn, an assistant professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the director of Surgical Outcomes and Applied Research at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, cautions the IHME model that shows Colorado peaking April 17 also shows the rate of deaths and hospitalizations dropping as fast as they rose, which she said isn’t realistic. “We’re not going to wipe out the virus by self-isolating for a couple of months. There will still be infected people out there,” she said.

*Fox31, March 30, 2020*

### Colorado Hospital Association Warns Against Believing Coronavirus Models

“There are a lot of models out there. There are many assumptions that go into creating a mathematical model to predict the number of patients we might see who become infected with COVID-19,” said Darlene Tad-y the Vice President of Clinical Affairs for the Colorado Hospital Association [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “When I look at the data that CDPHE posts every day, it tells me what has actually happened. I’d rather see what happens than guess into a crystal ball of models.”

*CBS4, April 7, 2020*

**Colorado health officials ‘certain’ state hasn’t reached COVID-19 peak, say distancing is working**

The Colorado Hospital Association’s vice president of clinical affairs, Darlene Tad-y, [associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], said in a statement Tuesday that the message to continue
physical distancing was the right one and that the CHA agreed with the state model rather than other models.

**Katie Colborn**, with the Colorado School of Public Health and University of Colorado School of Medicine, is one of the experts on the team put together by the School of Public Health to help model COVID-19 data for the CDPHE. “What we predict through the mathematical models is actually that if you can only keep social distancing going at a strong level, like right now, in place for a month or two, then there should be a secondary spike in transmission later,” she said. “Maybe in June or July.”

*Channel 7, April 6, 2020*

**Three coronavirus models have very different takes on how Colorado’s outbreak will develop**

But **Kathryn Colborn**, one of the CU researchers working on the model, said the team has some hints. In order for the state’s epidemic to peak, the number of people that every infected person passes the virus onto — a figure known in epidemiology as $R_0$ — has to drop below 1.

*Colorado Sun, April 7, 2020*

**How Far Is Colorado From Peak Coronavirus? It’s Hard To Tell**

And what should Colorado do: Brace for the worst or take a deep sigh of relief? **Kathryn Colborn**, an associate professor in the Department of Surgery on the University of Colorado’s Anschutz Medical Campus, is part of a team working on a similar model developed in Colorado to inform state and local policymakers. She said the revised predictions from the IHME for Colorado are likely far too optimistic for a couple of reasons.

On Monday, **Jason Persoff**, assistant director of emergency preparedness at the UCHealth hospital [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], too tempered his initial optimism, saying the state’s data “suggests that the curve might, **might**, be flattening. However, it’s just too early to know for sure.”

“The best way to describe things is that they are eerie,” said **Richard Zane**, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the
University of Colorado School of Medicine. “We continue to take care of patients who are increasingly sick, although we have not seen the ‘wave’ that NYC or New Orleans have seen and hopefully will not. Although volumes of emergency patients are either not increasing or increasing slowly, the proportion of those patients who are sick with COVID and critically ill increases day to day and the ICUs are getting very full and extremely busy.”

*CPR News, April 6, 2020*

**Anti-malaria drug shortage impacting Coloradans with auto-immune disorders**

“I understand the fear,” UCHealth Rheumatologist [Kevin Deane](https://www.ucdenver.edu/medicine/about/centers-institute/bioethics-and-humanities/kevin-deane.html) [associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] said. “However, we don’t know that the medicine works [for COVID-19].”

*9News, April 8, 2020*

**Americans With Disabilities Are Terrified**

“We need to be able to look back and say we made those decisions in a way that maintains the trust of the community, that maintains social cohesion, and allows us to heal,” says [Matt Wynia](https://www.denverpost.com/2020/03/26/colorado-coronavirus-outbreak-matt-wynia-centers/), the director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado at Anschutz.

*The Atlantic, April 3, 2020*

**Who Should Doctors Save? Inside the Debate About How to Ration Coronavirus Care**

The teams have better “situational awareness” of the resources available in nearby hospitals, which can affect decisions about what to do with individual patients. “God forbid someone makes a tragic choice to allocate a resource to one person and the other ends up dying, and then three days later you realize there was another hospital six miles away where we could have transferred them,” says [Matthew Wynia](https://www.denverpost.com/2020/03/26/colorado-coronavirus-outbreak-matt-wynia-centers/), director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado.

*Newsweek, April 3, 2020*

**Who Gets A Ventilator Or An ICU Bed? Colorado Issues Crisis Guidelines For Health Care Workers**

“There are some folks who might be under the impression that if there’s a need to make these kinds of triage decisions that their doctor
would be looking at them and saying, “are you worthy of a ventilator or not?” And that’s not the preferred way to do this. Nationally the consensus is that your doctor should be able to advocate for you as their patient,” said **Matthew Wynia** is the Director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

*KUNC, April 6, 2020*

**There’s No Crisis Care Plan In Idaho, But Officials Are Working On One**

“You don’t want the individual clinician — the doctor, the nurse — at the bedside trying to make decisions within their own patients about who gets this and who gets that,” added **Matt Wynia** who directs the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado.

*Boise State Public Radio, April 7, 2020*

**A nightmare approaches: Hospitals painfully prepare for life and death decisions**

A pilot test being run by UCHealth, affiliated with the University of Colorado School of Medicine, shows a typical way that medical institutions plan to carry out those principles. **Matthew Wynia**, director of the university’s Center for Bioethics and Humanities, says that each day, triage teams there get sequential organ failure assessment (SOFA) scores about every inpatient.

*AAMC, April 7, 2020*

**Amid Coronavirus, Colorado Creates Crisis Standards Of Care To ‘Try To Make It Fair Across The Board’**

Without the new directives, “this would be welcome to Bergamo basically,” said **Steve Cantrill**, an emergency medicine physician at Denver Health [and visiting associate professor of clinical practice of emergency medicine for CU School of Medicine]. He was referring to the dire scenes seen in the Italian epicenter of the outbreak, where providers have had to make grueling decisions because the number of patients sick with COVID-19 swamped hospitals’ ability to care for them.

*CPR News, April 5, 2020*
**Colorado hospital calling for donors to help with experimental, ‘promising’ coronavirus treatment**

“People who have recovered from coronavirus have a ton of antibodies,” said Kyle Annen, medical director at the Children’s Blood Donor Center [and assistant professor of pathology at CU School of Medicine]. “So what we’re doing is we’re taking the plasma from the people that are just recovered from coronavirus but no longer have the virus, and then transfusing it into people who currently have the virus, but haven’t made enough antibodies to defeat the illness yet, in hopes that will help them to kind of get over the hump and start getting better.”

*ABC News, April 2, 2020*

**Local family seeks plasma donor for life-saving COVID-19 treatment**

The treatment is called a convalescent plasma transfusion. Kyle Annen with Children’s Hospital Colorado [and CU School of Medicine] says it involves taking plasma from a person who has recently recovered from COVID-19 and transfusing it into a current patient.

*Fox31, April 3, 2020*

**Children’s Hospital Colorado among first to facilitate experimental coronavirus treatment**

The plasma from a recently recovered COVID-19 patient might carry unique antibodies that helped the patient fight off the infection, said Kyle Annen, a doctor who is in charge of the blood donation center at Children’s Hospital.

*Denver Post, April 7, 2020*

**If you’ve recovered from coronavirus, Colorado hospitals want your blood. It might save another patient’s life.**

Kyle Annen, who is the medical director of the blood collection center at Children’s Hospital Colorado, immediately reached out to a few people who had previously called to say they had recovered from COVID-19 and would donate blood. And she soon found one.

*Colorado Sun, April 7, 2020*
Coronavirus Pandemic: Evergreen Doctor Is First In Colorado To Be Treated With Convalescent Plasma

“We don’t have great evidence that this is going to work,” said David Beckham, an infectious disease researcher with the CU School of Medicine. He says convalescent plasma has the potential to work in some patients, but he sees it as a stopgap. “Until we can get more, kind of, rigorously defined, more advanced therapeutics on board,” he said.

CBS4, April 6, 2020

University of Colorado Hospital tries “promising” treatment for COVID-19, but doctors still cautious

“We are going to study the data to understand if these patients are actually getting better or improving with the treatment,” said David Beckham, a UCHealth infectious disease expert. "Right now we don’t know if convalescent serum is going to make COVID-19 patients any better."

Channel 7, April 7, 2020

Local business, university and hospital labs working to create new COVID-19 protection measures, treatments

“When someone gets infected with COVID-19, their body makes an immune response,” UCHealth [and CU School of Medicine] infectious disease specialist David Beckham said. Last week, UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital became the first in the state to treat COVID-19 patients with a serum made up from the blood, specifically antibodies, from someone who recovered from the disease.

Fox31, April 7, 2020

Colorado hospitals looking for plasma donors to fight COVID-19

“It has, for some patients in the past, shown that it might have helped in previous outbreaks of virus infections like Ebola or previous SARS outbreaks,” said University of Colorado Hospital Infectious Disease Specialist David Beckham, adding that it’s unclear how effective plasma transfusions will be against COVID-19.

9News, April 7, 2020
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Family mourns loss of Cody Lyster, youngest person to die of novel coronavirus in Colorado</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Cody Lyster was a <a href="#">junior at Colorado Mesa University</a>. He was studying criminal justice and played club baseball at the campus. Kevin Lyster, an officer at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, says his son was following in his footsteps to become an officer…. “The world lost an absolutely outstanding young man and we are going to miss him,” Kevin Lyster said. He’s now pleading with the public to take the new virus, and the disease it causes, COVID-19, seriously.</td>
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<td><em>Channel 7, April 8, 2020</em></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Colorado Coronavirus Updates for April 7: Closures, Testing, Cases, And More</strong></th>
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<td>Health providers see the response to the coronavirus pandemic in Colorado as a communal one, what <a href="#">Richard Zane</a>, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, calls “a very real esprit de corps.”</td>
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<td>“On a personal level, I’ve appreciated every email, text, or social media message I’ve gotten,” said <a href="#">Emmy Betz</a>, an emergency room physician at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. “And I love seeing homemade masks on community members, because it feels like they’re in the fight with us, but also not taking real PPE away from us.”</td>
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<td><em>CPR News, April 7, 2020</em></td>
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<th><strong>The bizarre reality of being new parents in the age of coronavirus</strong></th>
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<td><a href="#">Sean O’Leary</a>, a professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and a member on the infectious diseases committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics, understands the over-precaution new parents and even pediatricians are practicing because “we haven’t got a lot of research with newborns” and the coronavirus.</td>
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<td><em>Los Angeles Times, April 1, 2020</em></td>
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COVID-19 in Colorado: Four weeks later

Four weeks after Colorado announced its first case of COVID-19, we asked UCHealth’s Michelle Barron five important questions.

9News, April 2, 2020

Rideshare drivers take extra precaution in driving amid stay-at-home orders

“I think a lot of it is, again, having a physical barrier is actually not such a bad thing,” explained Michelle Barron, the medical director of infection prevention at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital. “If it covers your head and sort of limits what you’re able to cough out and it lands on the plastic instead, it certainly helps significantly.”

Fox4 (Cape Coral, Fla.), April 6, 2020

With labs shuttered, Colorado’s universities pivot to help hospitals fight coronavirus outbreak

The University of Colorado’s Anschutz Medical Campus went to work across its vast network of idled labs and educational facilities, collecting more than 36,600 masks, 47,500 disposable lab gowns, 245,000 pairs of gloves and 50 cases of disinfectant wipes. The CU School of Dental Medicine pitched in with 130,000 pairs of gloves, 45,000 gowns and 35,000 masks. CU Anschutz also was tapped to test face shields before they’re shipped to hospitals, and hosts a clinical trial for patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

Denver Post, April 8, 2020

Coronavirus pandemic: How it can take a toll on our kids’ mental health

“Often times, kids do not initiate conversations with their parents about the concerns that they might be having. And parents sometimes worry about initiating the conversations because they’re afraid that they’re somehow going to create more anxiety or more stress as a result of initiating these conversations,” said Jessica Hawks, clinical psychologist for Children’s Hospital Colorado [and assistant professor of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine].

Fox21 (Colorado Springs), April 2, 2020
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<td>Why child welfare experts fear a spike of abuse during COVID-19</td>
<td>The daily stress of the current pandemic, and the isolating measures taken to combat it, make impulse control increasingly difficult, said Steven Berkowitz, a child psychiatrist at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.</td>
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<td>End-Of-Life Planning Conversations Are Hard, But We Can’t Avoid them Now That Coronavirus Is Here</td>
<td>Hillary Lum, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, said people should make decisions based on their perception of the quality of life. “The questions about a do not resuscitate order are emotional and important to have accurate information,” Lum said. “Thinking about whether someone wants a do-not-resuscitate or not should be related to what is the likelihood of that procedure being beneficial to a person who restarts their heart and lungs but also return to a life that they value.”</td>
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<td>Coronavirus outbreak delayed his liver transplant. Then doctors found a solution</td>
<td>Doctors at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital in Denver previously canceled the surgery — along with all other organ transplants from living donors — amid concerns that such operations would leave patients and donors vulnerable to the coronavirus. But the hospital reversed course last week after developing the capability to test for the coronavirus in UCHealth’s lab and get results in under four hours.</td>
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<td>COVID-19: Are Acute Stroke Patients Avoiding Emergency Care?</td>
<td>“People with serious symptoms shouldn’t ignore them,” Sarah Perman, associate professor of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, states in an article on the AHA website.</td>
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<td><strong>Should health concerns trump economic concerns during crisis?</strong></td>
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<td>Op-ed by Jake Fox, a Colorado Springs native and a fifth-year medical and public health student at CU, and Erik Wallace, an Associate Professor of Medicine at the CU School of Medicine: “Our best recourse as a nation is one that abides by our guiding principles in medicine — as we navigate this crisis together, we should strive to uphold the value of individual lives and minimize death as best we can.”</td>
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<td><strong>Colorado Springs Gazette, April 5, 2020</strong></td>
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<th><strong>COVID-19 – the Global South must not be forgotten</strong></th>
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<td>Opinion by Jay Lemery, professor of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and author of the textbook “Global Climate Change and Human Health,” and a co-author: “While the media focuses on countries hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic — China, United States, Italy and South Korea — relatively less news emerges from the bulk of the world’s population living in developing countries.”</td>
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<td><strong>The Hill, April 5, 2020</strong></td>
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<th><strong>7 Rheumatoid Arthritis Symptoms Every Woman Should Know About</strong></th>
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<td>The symptoms of RA depend, to some extent, on how far the condition has progressed. According to Kevin Deane, a rheumatologist with UCHealth Rheumatology Clinic-Anschutz Medical Campus, as well as an associate professor of medicine and the William P. Arend Chair for Rheumatology Research at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, the most common symptoms at the onset of RA are pain, stiffness and a feeling of swelling in and around the joints.</td>
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<td><strong>She Knows, April 6, 2020</strong></td>
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### Here’s Why Your Natural Deodorant Gave You a Rash

Finally, coconut oil, which usually acts as a skin conditioner in natural deodorants, also may cause allergic reactions thanks to the surfactants and emulsifiers that are added to it, **Mayra Maymone**, researcher at the University of Colorado dermatology department explains.

*Self, April 8, 2020*

### Higher Protein Intake Linked to Lower Risk of AF

“The vast majority of folks in the Western world probably consume too much protein already,” said **Andrew M. Freeman**, director of Cardiovascular Prevention and Wellness, National Jewish Health, [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*Medscape, April 3, 2020*

### New Patient-Focused TAVR Quality Score Rolling Out to US Hospitals

For cardiothoracic surgeon **Joseph Cleveland**, (CU School of Medicine), who wasn’t involved in the study, the strength of the model is that it moves beyond periprocedural or 30-day mortality as a surrogate for quality to a patient-focused model that includes disabling stroke, an event most patients fear more than death.

*TCTMD, April 6, 2020*

### What Does VOYAGER PAD Mean for Antithrombotic Therapy?

Interview with **Marc Bonaca**, a cardiologist as well as a vascular medicine specialist at University of Colorado, about one of the hottest topics being presented at the virtual ACC are the results of the **VOYAGER PAD trial**.

*Medscape, April 3, 2020*

### The turbulent lives of six brothers with schizophrenia

The book gives much space to how difficult the disease has been to diagnose and treat. Yet it ends in 2017, as a story of hope. Kate, one of the Galvin grandchildren, who is interested in neuroscience and schizophrenia, takes a much-coveted undergraduate internship in the University of Colorado laboratory of **Robert Freedman** [former chair of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine]. On her first day in the lab, Kolker notes, “she stood near where the data from choline trials on little children were studied for signs of schizophrenia — tests that
could change everything for a future generation, thanks to six of her uncles."

*Washington Post, April 7, 2020*

**Six Brothers With Schizophrenia Fascinated Researchers. A New Book Explores the Family’s Trauma.**

Robert Freedman of the University of Colorado, who first met the Galvin family in the 1980s, is the one behind the research into choline that’s continuing now.

*Slate, April 8, 2020*