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### [The First Wave: Inside Colorado's Initial Response to COVID-19](#)

By late January, **Sam Dominguez** sensed the world was about to change. The professor of infectious diseases at the [University of Colorado School of Medicine](#) had spent his entire career studying emerging pathogens such as SARS, and the news coming out of China at the time, about a novel coronavirus with a high human-to-human transmission rate, led him to believe a pandemic was possible.



The Blood Donor Center at Children's Hospital Colorado was the third facility in the country to begin collecting convalescent plasma, which is used in one of the few COVID-19 treatments that has shown promise. **Kyle Annen**, the hospital's medical director of transfusion services [and assistant professor of pathology at CU School of Medicine], broke down the steps needed to get the first sample ready in less than 12 hours.



By late May, however, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) warned that the current antibody tests were inaccurate up to half the time. "A lot of tests are detecting antibodies for other coronaviruses," says **Richard Zane**, UHealth's chief innovation officer [and chair of emergency medicine for CU School of Medicine], "instead of ones for COVID-19."



In early April, **Brian Harry**, the medical director of clinical chemistry at University of Colorado Hospital [and assistant professor of pathology at CU School of Medicine], and his team decided they would grow the proteins used in such tests themselves so they could better ensure accuracy and have enough materials.



To begin, **Thomas Morrison**, an associate professor of immunology and microbiology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, identified the proteins present in the spikes jutting out of the virus and began growing versions of each at [University of Colorado Cancer Center](#).

*5280, July 17, 2020*



### ['Alarming': Experts Say Colorado's Current Trend In Coronavirus Cases Isn't Sustainable](#)

"We have now opened up a lot more businesses, people are socializing a lot more. The weather's changed, people are outside more, they're gathering more... including, potentially, tourists coming in and visiting Colorado, as well. That could also be a factor in all of this," said **Connie Price**, chief medical officer at Denver Health Medical Center [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*CBS4, July 17, 2020*

### [Coronavirus in Colorado: Case Count hits 40,000 statewide](#)

"It is burdening their healthcare systems tremendously," said **Connie Price**, Chief Medical Officer at Denver Health Medical Center. Price says the increase we are seeing at this rate is not sustainable long term. "We are very concerned," said Price. "We're preparing and we are getting ready to do what we need to do to accommodate another surge."

*KKTV11 (Colorado Springs), July 19, 2020*



### [Colorado hospitals analyze change in COVID-19 hospitalization rates](#)

"The question is, is this the beginning [like] what happened back in March when it started this way and then it escalated, or this sort of a slow steady increase that we'll see that will remain manageable," **Michelle Barron**, Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control at the University of Colorado Hospital UCHHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] said, adding "Or will it go back down? I think those are the things that remain definitely unknown."

*Fox31, July 20, 2020*



### [How to Keep Kids Healthy as the Country Reopens](#)

The political fight over children returning to school this fall continues to rage, and now the medical community is weighing in, with the American Academy of Pediatrics issuing its own guidance. **Sean O'Leary** is vice chair of the organization's committee on infectious diseases [and professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine]. He joins Hari Sreenivasan to explain how children are affected by the virus and the challenges of reopening schools.

*Amanpour & Co. (PBS), July 17, 2020*

### [What Do We Know About Children and COVID-19?](#)

**Sean O'Leary**, who is vice chair of the Committee on Infectious Disease for the American Academy of Pediatrics and professor of pediatrics in the sections of pediatric infectious disease and general pediatrics at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus/Children's Hospital Colorado, says that so far, success stories with schools are largely from other countries that are in a very different position than the United States: "[T]hey have lower levels of coronavirus in the community [and] better capacity for testing and contact tracing and controlling outbreaks when they do happen," he said.

*Medscape, July 21, 2020*

### [Kids and COVID-19: What experts do \(and do not\) know about how the virus affects children](#)

"What happens in schools is going to be reflective of the broader community no matter how good a job we do in implementing the mitigation measures," said **Sean O'Leary**, professor and pediatric infectious disease specialist at the University of Colorado's School of Medicine. "If we see that in mid-August we are seeing similar levels of disease to what we're seeing in Texas and Arizona, I don't know that it's safe to open schools at that point because there's so much virus circulating."



Fewer children have been hospitalized with the disease and very few deaths have been reported compared to adults, said **Sam Dominguez**, an infectious disease specialist at Children's Hospital Colorado [and professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine].

*Denver Post, July 20, 2020*



### [Colorado Edition: What Lies Ahead](#)

Today we're going to learn about the health impacts of schools opening, or remaining closed, as the school year quickly approaches. Our guest is **Christine Nyquist**, a pediatric infectious disease specialist and the medical director of Infection Prevention and Control and Children's Hospital Colorado.

*KUNC, July 20, 2020*



### [Face Mask Mandates: The Science Backs Up Covering Up](#)

"This is where you've got to get out of the idea of everything has to be 100% to be worthwhile," said infectious disease expert **Michelle Barron** of UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and CU School of Medicine].

*CBS4, July 16, 2020*



### [Your COVID-19 antibody testing samples can be used for genetic research](#)

"I think the public is much more aware of the benefits of genetic testing in getting information back that can help them make really important decisions about their own life, their treatment, their risk of developing disease and more. I also think there's a real altruistic nature to our patient population. They want to contribute to research and discovery, and I appreciate those who have joined this initiative." **Kathleen Barnes**, Director Colorado Center for Personalized Medicine and University of Colorado School of Medicine Professor

*Fox31, July 21, 2020*



### [Multiple vaccine candidates show early promise; inhaled interferon helps severe COVID-19 patients](#)

People are wary about close contact with others, so the pandemic is a real threat to bystander CPR, **Sarah Perman** of the University of Colorado School of Medicine told Reuters. Writing in the journal *Circulation*, she notes that the American Heart Association recommends hands-only CPR and precautions such as covering faces to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets that may carry the coronavirus.

*Reuters, July 20, 2020*



### [Can a pay cut hurt your health?](#)

Those consequences are distinct from the well-established connections between poverty and poor health, said **Edward Havranek**, director of medicine at Denver Health Medical Center [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. And although the exact reasons for the link between plunging income and later health problems aren't clear, one obvious suspect is stress. "As our wealth drops, we have the same set of obligations," Havranek said.

*News-Review (Petoskey, Mich.), July 17, 2020*



### [Many Americans With Dementia Live in Homes With Guns](#)

Exactly how often those two realities intersect is not clear. It's difficult to get good data on how many people with dementia have access to a firearm, said study author **Emmy Betz**. Given that, it's also unclear how often that ends in harm to dementia patients or others, according to Betz, an associate professor of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado's School of Medicine.

*Doctors Lounge, July 16, 2020*



### [Your Kid Doesn't Need to Be LeBron or Serena](#)

There's even a name for it: overtraining syndrome. According to **Gregory Walker**, a pediatric primary care sports medicine physician at Children's Hospital Colorado [and assistant professor of orthopedics at CU School of Medicine], "That's when an athlete has worse performance despite intense training. This can encompass a bunch of factors like physiologic stress, emotional stress, fatigue and anxiety."

*The New York Times, July 21, 2020*



### [Medics In Colorado Dosed 902 People With Ketamine For 'Excited Delirium' In 2.5 Years](#)

**Karsten Bartels**, an associate professor specializing in anesthesiology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, said ketamine's use in hospitals is well-established. It must be administered with caution, Bartels added, and an understanding of the patient.

*KUNC, July 21, 2020*



### [An Ickier Outbreak: Trench Fever Spread by Lice Is Found in Denver](#)

[Michelle Barron](#), medical director of infection prevention and control at UCHHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], received an unusual call last month from the microbiology lab: confirmation of the third case this year of trench fever, a rare condition transmitted by body lice that plagued soldiers during World War I. Barron's epidemiological training kicked in. "Two is always an outbreak, and then when we found a third — OK, we clearly have something going on," Barron recalled thinking.

*Kaiser Health News, July 20, 2020*



### [Acute Flaccid Myelitis \(AFM\): Why I Care with Dr. Kevin Messacar](#)

**Kevin Messacar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Sections of Hospital Medicine and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, University of Colorado and Children's Hospital Colorado, discusses how families affected by AFM motivate him to find answers about the condition.

*Longview News-Journal (Longview, Texas), July 17, 2020*



### [How much do we know about marijuana's medical capabilities after 163 years of claims? Just a little.](#)

**Emily Lindley**, an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopedics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, received \$742,000 in Colorado money to study cannabis as a treatment for chronic back and neck pain. "We are almost done with the clinical trial, no results to report yet," Lindley wrote in an email.

*Colorado Sun, July 20, 2020*