CU School of Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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Medical students deploy across Colorado to help combat coronavirus

Medical students are deploying to hospitals, homeless shelters, community centers and other facilities around the state to assist in the fight against coronavirus. "(I'm) impressed and humbled by the people that have responded. I think that it really shows the dedication of our future health professionals," **Halea Meese**, a fourth-year medical student at the University of Colorado School of Medicine said.

Meese and another student, **Jake Fox**, helped organize hundreds of volunteers after they received a call from the governor's office asking students to assist with triaging hotline phone calls from people with questions about COVID-19. "Certainly, the response has blossomed from there," Fox said. "We got numerous requests from a variety of different hospitals in Denver and Colorado Springs to help them in a variety of different support roles."

Loree Thornton, a medical student who is leading the effort in Colorado Springs, said. "We are intimately in contact with every health system down here," she said. "We are finding we actually have a lot of opportunity to be useful down here."

Fox31, March 18, 2020

Weeks Ahead Of When Coronavirus Will Peak In Colorado, Hospitals Are Already Seeing Shortages

"Everything" hinges on testing as hospitals respond to the upswing in possible coronavirus patients, said **Connie Price**, chief medical officer at Denver Health, who is also a professor of infectious diseases [at CU School of Medicine].

"We're all in this together, the more we can practice social distancing, we really need to do our best with that," said **Sean O'Leary** [associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine]. "The more we do that, the more slowly this virus can spread."

Jason Persoff, a physician [and associate professor medicine at CU School of Medicine] leading COVID response efforts at another large Colorado hospital system, UCHealth, shared somewhat similar concerns. "We have seen a large surge in patient numbers who are being ruled out for COVID, but test centers locally and nationally are so backlogged, turnaround times are now approaching a week," Persoff said.

CPR News, March 17, 2020

[Governor urges cancellation of large public gatherings as coronavirus testing shows more community spread in Colorado](#)

On Friday, Polis announced that he has reached out to the University of Colorado School of Medicine to see if med students are available to pitch in.

Colorado Sun, March 13, 2020

[Colo. Gov. Polis Provides Update on State's Response to COVID-19](#)

The Governor also reached out to Anschutz Medical Campus and asked them if they could tap into their network of qualified nursing, medical professionals, pharmaceutical experts, and other graduate students to help the conducting COVID-19 testing to help increase capacity.

InsuranceNewsNet, March 14, 2020

[Colorado governor closes bars, restaurants, theaters and gyms in fight against coronavirus](#)

Hospitals in mountain communities, where the virus is spreading more widely, already are running short of protective gear and other resources to care for a higher volume of patients, said **Daniel Pastula**, a University of Colorado [School of Medicine] infectious disease specialist who visited some of the harder-hit communities.

[Expanding Colorado's COVID-19 Testing Capacity Proves Frustrating To Polis, Doctors And The Public](#)

Many doctors aren't equipped to test in their private offices because they don't have the facility requirements — including negative-pressure rooms to keep the virus contained — to provide them. "If I wasn't so engaged and involved in this every day, I'm not sure I would understand it," said **Michelle Barron**, an infectious disease expert at University of Colorado Hospital. "We had to do education amongst our health care workers … There is some confusion."

[For State's Nursing Homes, Coronavirus A Test Of Residents, Staff](#)

[Jeff Wallace](#), a geriatrician at the Multidisciplinary Centers on Aging at CU Anschutz Medical Campus, said restricting access early is one of the things Colorado has learned from the outbreaks at nursing facilities in Washington state that left 19 dead and dozens infected.

[Coronavirus: Only one hospital bed for every six 'seriously ill' US patients in event of rapids surge, report says](#)

Matthew Wynia, director of the Centre for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, told *Business Insider* "a surge in confirmed coronavirus cases could also lead to a shortfall of medical supplies like ventilators, as well as the staff required to properly use such devices. "You need people to run the ventilators," he said.

[Colorado hospitals are postponing elective surgeries, reusing masks in preparation for a coronavirus surge](#)

UCHealth is evaluating whether to take everyone's temperature before allowing them inside the building, said **Richard Zane**, UCHealth's chief innovation officer and chair of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Like Emergency Medicine Special Forces, Colorado Doctors and Nurses Get Ready To Combat Coronavirus

"The preparations have been pretty solid," said **Jason Persoff** on Friday. He's the assistant director of emergency preparedness at the UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

CPR News, March 15, 2020

'I would not go out and dine': Denver doctors call for more social distancing

"One person can infect so many people," said **Jason Persoff**. "If you're congregating in areas where a lot of other people congregate, you are very likely to get sick." Persoff is the assistant director of emergency preparedness at the UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

Fox31, March 13, 2020

People are being told to 'shelter in place' to combat the coronavirus. What does that mean?

"The term 'shelter in place' has a dramatic sound with connotations from the Cold War when people did duck-and-cover drills [ahead of nuclear attacks]," **Jason Persoff**, assistant director of emergency preparedness at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital, tells Yahoo Lifestyle.

Yahoo! Style, March 17, 2020

'It's everywhere here': Vail Health CEO issues stern COVID-19 warning to mountain community

"[Surge] phase is actually one of the most dreaded phases of any epidemic," said **Jason Persoff**, Assistant Director of Emergency Preparedness at the University of Colorado Hospital (UCHealth).

9News, March 18, 2020

[What Are the Rules for Play Dates During the Coronavirus Crisis?](#)

"Just because schools are closed doesn't mean you can't have any interaction with other people, period," said **Sean O'Leary**, a pediatrician in Colorado, [associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine], and an executive member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' committee on infectious diseases.

The New York Times, March 13, 2020

[Just Give Them the Screens (for Now)](#)

"We're in the midst of something that no one alive has really experienced before," **Sean O'Leary**, an executive member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Infectious Diseases, [told me earlier this week](#).

The New York Times, March 14, 2020

[Children and Coronavirus: 4 Questions Answered](#)

In one way it doesn't matter for schools, says **Sean O'Leary**, a pediatric epidemiologist at Children's Hospital, Colorado, and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics committee on infectious diseases: "They should handle respiratory illness the way they normally would: If a child comes to school with a fever, they're supposed to be sent home. That's the standard."

Education Week, March 11, 2020

[Coronavirus And Kids: More Research Suggests Symptoms Are Mild In Children](#)

"This study does show that this virus appears to be less severe in children than adults, but it also shows that some children do require hospitalization," [Sean O'Leary](#), a pediatric infectious disease specialist with the University of Colorado, told HuffPost.

HuffPost, March 17, 2020

[Denver Health Medical Center Doctor Explains How COVID-19 Affects Patients](#)

Connie Price [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] said hospitals in Colorado will all have to work together to share resources.
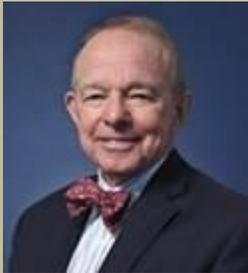
CBS4, March 16, 2020

['A death sentence': Critically ill patients denied transplants amid coronavirus outbreak](#)

In a statement to NBC News, **Elizabeth Pomfret**, the chief of transplant surgery at UCHealth, confirmed that the hospital had suspended some transplant surgeries. "After careful consideration and consultation with the majority of transplant programs across the country, UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital is putting our living donor liver and kidney transplant program on hold for two weeks, in keeping with recommendations reflecting the national pandemic," Pomfret said. "We and the remainder of the transplant community do not believe that choosing to immunosuppress a recipient and expose a donor to excess risk right now is in the interest of either the donor or recipient."

NBC News, March 18, 2020

[Who gets a ventilator? Hospitals facing coronavirus surge are preparing for life-or-death decisions](#)

"You're looking for the most good for the greatest number — it really is a shift," said **Stephen Cantrill**, an emergency physician at Denver Health Medical Center [and visiting associate professor of clinical practice of emergency medicine for CU School of Medicine], who helped create [foundational recommendations](#) for the standards from the National Academy of Medicine. "Normally, we operate with the individual patient's best interest at heart."

NBC News, March 18, 2020

[World-renowned Denver trauma surgeon stays home during coronavirus](#)

Ernest E. Moore, who goes by the name Gene, 73, said on Monday his department decided it would not be appropriate for him to continue participating in patient care because he is in an age group that is at a higher risk for the virus. "It's very frustrating for every physician -- particularly for a surgeon – because we can't do a lot by phone, as you know," said [the Distinguished Professor for the University of Colorado].

Fox31, March 17, 2020

[Colorado Gun Shops Offer to Store Firearms for Suicide Prevention Plan](#)

Emmy Betz, [an associate professor] at the [University of Colorado School of Medicine](#) who helped launch the organization in 2015, sees the group as a natural outgrowth of her professional work. "I'm an emergency physician," she says, "and I do a lot of research and education efforts related to suicide prevention, and especially firearms suicide prevention."

Westword, March 13, 2020

[Minorities Less Likely to Get Recommended Lung Cancer Imaging](#)

"We started from the perspective of outcomes: we know that black and Hispanic lung cancer patients tend to not do as well as non-Hispanic whites," said **Rustain Morgan**, an assistant professor of radiology. "We wondered if there could also be differences in how these groups are imaged at diagnosis."

HealthDay, March 17, 2020

[10 Surprising Facts About Female Hormones That Every Woman Should Know](#)

This "male" sex hormone, produced by the ovaries and adrenal glands, may help keep libido up. Your levels fall naturally in your 30s, says **Nanette Santoro**, chair of obstetrics and gynecology at the CU School of Medicine. But they don't plunge further in menopause, and while testosterone supplementation can help some women with low libidos, it's unclear whether long-term use is safe.

Prevention, March 17, 2020

[Transplant Method Avoids Rejection of Donor Leg for Months in Rats](#)

"The graft survival data with the hindlimb transplant in the rat is quite impressive," both in this study and another one the authors published last year in *[PNAS](#)*, says **[Christene Huang](#)**, who studies alternatives to prolonged immunosuppression after transplants at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and did not participate in the work.

The Scientist, March 13, 2020

Q&A with Dr. Richard Zane, Part 1: "It's about helping providers make better decisions."

But if the goals and values are aligned, and the right intent and expectations are established upfront, it can result in a great relationship, said **Richard Zane**, who holds the dual role of Chief Innovation Officer at University of Colorado Health (UCHealth) and academic chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

HealthSystemCIO.com, March 17, 2020

Best Medical Schools: Primary Care

The best medical schools for primary care offer quality training in preventive medicine and public health for those looking to become a primary care physician or family doctor. This kind of physician's job is to diagnose and treat patients for various medical issues. Students will gain skills in patient advocacy, motivational interviewing, how to form doctor-patient relationships and other tools relevant to a physician. University of Colorado School of Medicine ranks No. 9.

Best Medical Schools: Research

The best medical schools for research are one step ahead of the pack, propelled by funding, cutting-edge technology and the research done by students and faculty. These schools are prime for those who want to make their mark in the medical field through discovery. University of Colorado School of Medicine ranks No. 31.

Best Physical Therapy Programs

To become a physical therapist, students must first master areas of science such as biomechanics, neuroscience, exercise physiology and anatomy. These are the top schools to train physical therapists at the doctorate level (DPT). The CU School of Medicine Physical Therapy Program ranks No. 13.

U.S. News & World Report, March 17, 2020