Colorado hospitals team up to cope with COVID-19 surge, CDPHE issues plea to step up mitigation tactics

“We’re increasing the number of beds needed for COVID patients on a day to day basis,” said Jean Kutner, the chief medical officer at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “We’ve expanded now into our third Intensive Care Unit.”

Channel 7, Nov. 16, 2020

A look at the strain on some Colorado hospitals caused by the current wave of COVID-19

“I’m quite frankly frightened about the next month or so,” Denver Health Chief Quality Officer Thomas MacKenzie [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] told Next with Kyle Clark on Wednesday....“In the last wave, we didn’t have as many non-COVID patients. Now we are full with non-COVID patients who require hospitalized care because of other conditions. And then we have to add to that a number of COVID patients,” he said.

The Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) said that across the state, there is still hospital capacity. “Now compared to what happened in the spring, we are seeing more patients who have COVID hospitalized staying in the medical floor. They are sick. Sick enough to be in the hospital but not so sick they are needing intensive care,” Darlene Tad- y [associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] told Next.

9News, Nov. 12, 2020
Two vaccine trials show promising results, but there’s still a long way to go

“That, I think, is very reassuring that you have two independent experiments that have come to the same conclusion, that the conclusion is real,” said Thomas Campbell, the chief clinical research officer for UCHealth and the associate dean for clinical research at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Channel 7, Nov. 16, 2020

‘It’s Exciting’: Denver Moderna COVID Vaccine Trial Participant Talks About Effective Rate

“We have two independent scientific experiments that come up with the same results that demonstrate that both of these vaccines are highly effective,” said Thomas Campbell, a professor of infectious disease medicine at CU Anschutz Medical Campus. “We are able to do that already with lots of other vaccines, I don’t think that will be a big issue.”

CBS4, Nov. 17, 2020

Hundreds of people from Colorado are participating in the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine trial

Thomas Campbell agrees. He’s the Chief Clinical Research Officer at UCHCHealth who is overseeing the trial. Campbell says this vaccine is similar to the Pfizer vaccine, and has similar early data. “When you do two experiments, two scientific experiments and get the same answer you have much greater confidence in the results,” Campbell said.

Fox31, Nov. 16, 2020

Pfizer’s announcement shows the promise of gene-based vaccines

“It’s extremely encouraging, in my view, not only for the Pfizer vaccine, but broadly speaking for the platform,” says Ross Kedl, an immunologist at the University of Colorado.

Rosemary Rochford, also an immunologist at the University of Colorado, says she was initially skeptical they’d work as well as some other types of vaccines, like ones made from inactivated viruses. But the Pfizer data — assuming it holds up on further evaluation from
outside experts and the FDA — is a strong proof of concept. “This mRNA platform seems to be very promising,” she says.

*The Verge, Nov. 12, 2020*

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<tr>
<th>Pfizer to request coronavirus vaccine emergency use authorization ‘within days’</th>
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<td>Each shot is comprised of the same formulation, meaning there is no difference between the shots, but the reason there has to be two is because the body responds to each differently. The first dose, <strong>Anuj Mehta</strong>, a pulmonary and critical care physician at National Jewish Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], previously explained to Fox News, acts as a primer for the body’s immune system, and the second dose, given three weeks later, will kick it into gear, so to speak.</td>
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<td><em>Fox News, Nov. 18, 2020</em></td>
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<th>COVID Cases: 64 GEO Group Employees in Aurora Test Postitive</th>
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<td>“I think that this [GEO staff] outbreak is the result of two factors,” says <strong>Carlos Franco-Paredes</strong>, an infectious-disease doctor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus who has testified in lawsuits filed against GEO Group and ICE. “A, the third wave of COVID-19 community-based transmission; and B, the lack of preparedness needed to protect detainees during this pandemic. The latter factor is important to emphasize because it reveals the inability of detainees to shield from the pandemic. They just don’t care about detainees.”</td>
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<td><em>Westword, Nov. 17, 2020</em></td>
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<th>On the frontlines of COVID-19 for 8 months: ‘It’s physically and mentally exhausting’</th>
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<td>Fresh off the frontlines, <strong>Marc Moss</strong> [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] took the podium from Governor Jared Polis during a COVID-19 press conference on March 30...“We’re only at the beginning of this crisis,” Moss said during the press conference. Nearly eight months later, the doctor’s perspective remains unchanged. “We’re on the first lap,” Moss told 9NEWS on Sunday. “I still think we’re near the beginning of this pandemic.”</td>
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<td><em>9News, Nov. 15, 2020</em></td>
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Critical care nurses: COVID-19’s first surge has prepared us for this current one

“It has been very busy [in the ICU] and it has really, as you mentioned, gone up in the last two weeks,” said Julia Limes of UCHealth [and CU School of Medicine]. . . . “We have started deploying people from other parts in the hospital to come and help us on both the COVID floors and in the COVID ICU,” said Limes.

Channel 7, Nov. 19, 2020

How to talk to your kids about pandemic-related changes to the holidays

Jenna Glover [assistant professor of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine] says that encouraging kids to share their ideas for family gatherings could help them accept the changes....“(Parents should) really have their kids focus on what they can control and what is still available to them, rather than on a deficit and what they don’t have,” Glover said. “So shifting the perspective to, ‘this is what we’re grateful for having,’ rather than, ‘this is why we’re sad.’”

WTVR (Richmond, Va.), Nov. 16, 2020

How to Travel Safely During the Holiday Season

“Unfortunately, we have seen the numbers increasing nationwide, so it becomes even more important to assess the risks for your family,” says Andrés Henao, an internal medicine physician, infectious disease specialist, and assistant professor for the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Conde Nast Traveler, Nov. 16, 2020

Is It Safe To Host Friendsgiving in 2020? Experts Explain Why It Might Be Too Risky

With colder weather rolling in, there are fewer options for lower risk outdoor gatherings. Michelle Barron, Senior medical director for infection prevention and control at UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], tells Elite Daily if you aren’t part of an individual’s bubble, attending Friendsgiving can put you at high risk for contracting or transmitting COVID-19.

Elite Daily, Nov. 12, 2020

Colorado Ski Resorts Were Poised To Open For Winter. A Record Spike in Coronavirus Cases Is Testing Their Plans
Outdoor activities like skiing — where people have plenty of room to spread out — are relatively safe, said Michelle Barron, who specializes in infectious disease at the University of Colorado hospital. “It’s apres skiing, it’s maybe some hot tubbing and condo life and that concerns me because I think that those are the instances in which spread, obviously, could occur,” Barron said.

*CPR News, Nov. 13, 2020*

**Q&A: The mental health toll for health care workers in the pandemic**

About a month into the pandemic, Michelle Barron, professor at the CU School of Medicine specializing in infectious Barron, took the advice she had been giving others for years and sought the help of a therapist. She shared her reasoning in an episode of the CU Anschutz podcast “COVID Reflections” which focuses on the evolution of the coronavirus pandemic.

*9News, Nov. 11, 2020*

**Lessons learned: COVID-19 numbers are up, but hospital is better equipped**

From last spring to today, a lot has changed, according to Richard Zane, UCHealth chief innovation officer and professor and chair of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. “Both in our understanding and treatment of the disease,” he continued. “We are seeing far more patients with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 than in the spring — many, many more.”

*Steamboat Pilot & Today, Nov. 18, 2020*

**UCHealth doctor questions reliability of rapid COVID-19 testing**

A UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital doctor says rapid testing for the novel coronavirus should not be trusted. “There is an enormous presence across Colorado of tests that are unreliable,” says Richard Zane, Chair of Emergency Medicine at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital.

*Channel 7, Nov. 12, 2020*

**Effectiveness of rapid testing poses the question: ‘What’s the point?’**

Richard Zane, Chair of Emergency Medicine at UC Health and University of Colorado Hospital, says when understanding the effectiveness of the antigen test, you have to consider the
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<td>WROC (Rochester, NY), Nov. 17, 2020</td>
<td>Circumstance in which it’s used. If we are looking at one person getting tested for their own insight, it’s not going to be your best bet, he says.</td>
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| AARP, Nov. 18, 2020 | **Holding on to Hand Strength**  
Trouble with gripping, grabbing, pinching and holding things can happen at any age, but “it’s around age 60 when we commonly see symptoms of hand-strength loss and loss of dexterity,” says Kia Washington, associate professor of surgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. |
| Denver Post, Nov. 13, 2020 | **Denver police solved less than half of all nonfatal shootings last year. A new solution is showing promise.**  
But an arrest is not the only action that can help prevent future violence, said Emmy Betz, director of the Firearm Prevention Initiative at the University of Colorado’s Anschutz Medical Campus. “It’s not just punitive criminal justice, though that’s important in many cases, but it’s about the factors that led to it and trying to stop the violence there,” she said. “You need larger community programs and policies that are addressing those underlying issues as well.” |
| Medical Dialogues, Nov. 19, 2020 | **Low Levels Of Choline In Pregnant Black American Women Tied To Higher Stress Levels**  
“One of the possible causes of higher cortisol and lower choline levels in Black American women is the burden of institutional racism and the chronic subconscious stress that it causes,” said Robert Freedman, professor of psychiatry at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and the study’s lead researcher. |
| Medscape, Nov. 18, 2020 | **TAVR Surpasses SAVR in US, Outcomes Continue to Improve**  
“This is a trend we’ve seen coming for about 5 years, but it’s still a little mind-boggling to see how quickly the numbers are diverging,” said first author John D. Carroll, from the University of Colorado School of Medicine.
Long-term care is ideally personalized to each patient, according to Larry Allen, and Colleen McIlvennan, both of University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, writing in an accompanying editorial. “Long-term care management is not a simple daily pill or single procedure; interventions of this nature are contextualized, personalized, time-intensive, multidisciplinary, and multicomponent. They must be pragmatic by nature. Each community, hospital, and patient face different barriers when it comes to care of HF,” Allen and McIlvennan said.

MedPage Today, Nov. 19, 2020

Most patients experienced tumor shrinkage that in some cases met the criteria for objective response, according to study co-author Antonio Jimeno, professor of medicine/oncology and otolaryngology at University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Healio, Nov. 19, 2020