How the COVID-19 Vaccines Were Made So Quickly – From the Lab to Clinical Trials to FDA Authorization

“The only path forward to actually getting our society back to normal is a vaccine,” Ross Kedl, professor of immunology and microbiology at University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine, tells Health. “There has never been an infection against which we’ve achieved herd immunity without one.”

Health, April 15, 2021

Your Questions About Life After Vaccination, Answered

While it may be tempting to move about more freely after getting the first dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines (it does offer some immunity), UCHealth infectious disease specialist Michelle Barron [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] advises against it. “I think it gives people a false sense of security,” she says.

5280, April 15, 2021

_in race against COVID variants, scientists and doctors agree: The time to get vaccinated is now_

Michelle Barron a top infectious disease expert in Colorado affiliated with UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], said that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the FDA recommended pausing use of the J&J vaccine on April 13 due to an association with rare blood clotting issues in six women between the ages of 18-48.

Greeley Tribune, April 17, 2021

Which metrics will tell health experts that the COVID-19 pandemic is over?
“I would definitely say the pandemic is not over yet,” said **Michelle Barron**, the senior medical director of infection prevention at UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “Somewhere between 70%, 80% is probably the point at which we will feel comfortable that enough people are protected that it’s not going to spread.”

*9News, April 19, 2021*

**COVID Booster Shots: UCHealth Plans For Possibility Of 3rd Dose Needed Within A Year**

“I feel like it’s just another thing that we knew was likely to happen,” said **Michelle Barron**, Director of Infection Prevention at UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “The idea behind a booster is to stimulate your immune system. It’s something that your body has potentially now seen before with the first vaccine, so it’s not starting over in terms of the education of the immune response.”

*CBS4, April 15, 2021*

**With vaccines open to 16- to 17-year-olds, high schools set up shop to give the shots**

“Childhood cases really reflect what’s going on in the surrounding community,” said Dr. **Sean O’Leary**, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Children’s Hospital Colorado. Indeed, the seven-day average of new Covid-19 cases overall is up slightly from the previous week, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

*NBC News, April 21, 2021*

**U.S. parents begin to ask: Should my child get a COVID-19 shot?**

**Sean O’Leary**, a pediatrics professor at the University of Colorado, said vaccination will help children avoid hospitalizations, a rare inflammatory reaction or lasting symptoms known as long COVID. “It is certainly not correct to say it’s benign in children. Anyone that’s worked in a children’s hospital can tell you how many sick kids we’ve taken care of,” he said.

*WHBL (Sheboygan, Wis.), April 16, 2021*
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| **Pfizer CEO: 3rd COVID-19 vaccine booster likely needed within 12 months** | “A lot of it is based on how fast the coronavirus mutates,” said Ross Kedl, a professor of immunology and microbiology at the University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine.  
*Fox31, April 15, 2021* |
| **U.S. Study Of Novavax COVID Vaccine Continues With 2 More Shots For Volunteers** | “Today, Novavax began what we call a blinded crossover,” said Thomas Campbell, professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine and lead investigator at the study site at UHealth, one of 115 sites.  
*CBS4, April 21, 2021* |
| **Why COVID-19 testing is important even as the number of vaccinations increase** | “CDC guidance around testing for fully vaccinated people changed,” said Richard Zane, chief innovation officer for UHealth.  
*9News, April 15, 2021* |
| **Colorado tested more prisoners for COVID-19 than most states – but it’s not clear if that prevented deaths** | Testing is important, but it’s only useful if facilities that use it to make good decisions about housing prisoners, said Carlos Franco-Paredes, an infectious diseases specialist at UHealth [and CU School of Medicine] who works with incarcerated populations. . . . “What matters is not the number of tests, but how do you use that information from testing,” he said.  
*Denver Post, April 15, 2021* |
| **UCHealth says they have performed Colorado’s first COVID-related lung transplant** | UHealth surgeon Muhammad Aftab [assistant professor of surgery at CU School of Medicine] was one of Bryan’s doctors and told 9NEWS COVID-related lung and heart transplants are something we are now seeing across the country. “The transplant for the COVID-19 infection is a very new phenomenon,” he explained.  
*9News, April 21, 2021* |
Athletes on the front foot in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic

One of those who has played a hugely significant part over the course of the last year is former United States judoka Christina Yannetsos, a silver medallist at the 2003 Pan American Games, who is now an emergency room physician and assistant professor of emergency medicine for the University of Colorado’s School of Medicine.

Inside the Games, April 18, 2021

Safe Summer Activities for Kids During the Pandemic

“My best guess is that it’ll be better than last summer in terms of what we’re doing, but it won’t be back to what it was like in summer 2019,” says Sean O’Leary, professor of pediatrics and a pediatric infectious diseases specialist at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Children’s Hospital Colorado.

Consumer Reports, April 20, 2021

Teens slept 45 minutes more a night when their school district tried a new scheduling strategy

Since many districts stagger their school buses in order to pick up everyone, the elementary school students began school an hour earlier over the course of the study so that older students could be picked up later, said study author Lisa Meltzer, a pediatric psychologist at National Jewish Health [and professor of family medicine at CU School of Medicine].

CNN, April 16, 2021

Sicknick death ruled ‘natural’ but experts say stress can set off strokes

“Basil or artery occlusion is a specific type of stroke that happens in the posterior circulation. This is the blood flow that enters the brain and then in the backside of your head,” said Robert Kowalski, a clinical instructor in neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine who does stroke research. This area of the brain is critical for cardiac function. It regulates heartbeat and breathing. “These are a terrible type of stroke because the mortality rate is close to 90% when it’s not treated,” Kowalski said.

CNN, April 20, 2021
### Selfless Colorado Woman, Angela Zivkovich, Donates Both a Kidney & Part Of Her Liver To Strangers

“That’s really extraordinary,” said Elizabeth Pomfret, Chief of Transplant Surgery at UCHealth [and professor of surgery at CU School of Medicine]. She said 20 people have become non-directed donors there since 2016. Angela is one of 12 who have done it twice. “The spirit of people who live in Colorado is just one of being a very giving nature,” said Pomfret.

*CBS4, April 22, 2021*

### Peer mentorship can be more effective, accessible than traditional mentorship in academic medicine

“We started our group because we felt that, as women in academic medicine, we really needed to support each other,” says Melanie Cree-Green, lead author and associate professor of pediatrics-endocrinology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

“Our group of eight women formed three years ago and meets every three weeks. In that time, we have had five promotions, major grant funding - and other positive career milestones that happened thanks in part to our support for one another,” says Jill Kaar, co-author and associate professor of pediatrics-endocrinology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

*Vet Candy, April 15, 2021*

### Five-Minute Digital Clock Test May Speed Early Alzheimer’s Diagnosis

In an accompanying editorial, Peter Pressman, Department of Neurology, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center, [and a co-author] note that in this “technological advance of the time-honored clock-drawing test, the use of a computerized pen allows analysis not only of the correctness of the face and hands of the clock but also of other, subtler features, such as movement and spatial patterns, thereby providing a much richer dataset than the conventional clock-drawing scoring schema.”

*Medscape, April 16, 2021*
Michael Zuscik, Mack Clayton professor and vice chair of research in the Department of Orthopedics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and director of the Colorado Program for Musculoskeletal Research, recently received a $3.175-million grant from the National Institutes of Health to analyze the link between the gut microbiome and osteoarthritis -- specifically in the obese context -- and investigate whether strategies that shape the gut microbiome can halt or reverse the progression of the disease.

New-Medical, April 15, 2021