



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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[For Colorado health workers, the latest COVID surge is a special kind of exhausting](#)

For **Marc Moss** [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], the day begins before 7 a.m. Time for rounds. These are anxious weeks again in the intensive care unit at UHealth University of Colorado Hospital, where Moss works. After a decline in patients earlier this summer that the hospital's doctors and nurses had hoped signaled the effective end of the coronavirus pandemic, the number of people in the unit sick with COVID-19 is rising again.

Colorado Sun, Aug. 25, 2021



[COVID cases rise; doctors frustrated with unvaccinated](#)

Ben Usatch, emergency medicine physician and medical director of the UHealth Highlands Ranch Hospital Emergency Department [and assistant professor of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine], said the difference between vaccinated patients with breakthrough COVID and unvaccinated patients is night and day.



At Children's Health Colorado (CHC), **Kevin Carney**, associate chief medical officer and pediatrics emergency medicine specialist [and associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine], said there are a lot more concerns for children under 12 as the delta variant spreads.

Douglas County News-Press, Aug. 24, 2021



[Colorado COVID hospitalizations highest since May](#)

Ivor Douglas, director of the intensive care unit at Denver Health [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], says attention should be paid to how successful Colorado has been in keeping COVID-19 numbers down compared to other states. “This is not Alabama, this is not Texas and not Florida. But we are in trouble,” Douglas said.



Richard Zane, UCHealth's chief innovation officer, said the rise is due in part to the raging delta variant, waning vaccine immunity and not enough people getting the COVID shot. “We have waning immunity in the setting of a huge number of unvaccinated people. We've vastly, unfortunately, underestimated how many people would not get vaccinated,” Zane said.

Fox31, Aug. 23, 2021

[Routt County positivity rate hits highest mark since January](#)

“People talk a lot about individual choice, but the reason you get vaccinated is not because of yourself. It's also because of other people around you,” said **Richard Zane**, chief innovation officer and chief of emergency services for UCHealth. “To not get vaccinated is an unpatriotic act.”

Steamboat Pilot & Today, Aug. 23, 2021



[Among children, older teens are seeing the highest Covid-19 case rates](#)

There could be some biological mechanisms behind why older teens appear to have Covid-19 case rates higher than other children -- but that's not really clear, said **Sean O'Leary**, [professor of pediatrics and infectious diseases](#) at University of Colorado's School of Medicine. “My suspicion is it probably has more to do with behavior than biology, in terms of, what are those kids doing?” O'Leary said.

CNN, Aug. 26, 2021



[Some Parents Push to Give Covid-19 Vaccine to Children Under 12, Against Government Guidance](#)

“We really don’t have any data” on the safety and tolerability of the vaccine on 5-to-11 year olds, says **Sean O’Leary**, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and vice chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics’s committee on infectious diseases.

The Wall Street Journal, Aug. 24, 2021



[Reading, Writing And COVID: Colorado’s Return To School Immediately Led To The Virus Spreading](#)

“However, it is highly unusual and concerning for us to see volumes this high at this point in the year, especially when we know we’ll have more patients once school is fully in session and more viruses circulate,” said **Kevin Carney**, associate chief medical officer at Children’s Hospital Colorado [and associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine]. “We also have never experienced the workforce shortages that are impacting the entire healthcare industry.”

CPR News, Aug. 24, 2021



[State health department adopts CDC guidance to minimize school quarantines](#)

Professor of immunology at CU Anschutz Medical Campus **Ross Kedi** said children remain at low risk for severe cases of COVID-19 and he is not concerned about new emerging variants in the younger school aged children. “It’s different in influenza or something like that where flu really does spread much more rapidly and has much more severe consequences in kids that are much younger,” he said.

9News, Aug. 19, 2021



[Colorado is expanding mental health support for teachers, students ahead of uncertain school year](#)

Amy Lopez, a professor of psychiatry at the CU School of Medicine, said after last year, a large number of teachers were considering leaving the profession. “We opened up a call line through the department of psychiatry to try and help them out and a big number — probably at least half of the calls we took — were educators saying, ‘I don’t think I can continue,’” Lopez said.

Channel 7, Aug. 20, 2021



[Mental health panel primes teachers, families on new school year challenges](#)

“It is going to be a hard year, and we have to acknowledge that, we have to accept that,” said **Steven Berkowitz**, child psychiatrist and University of Colorado School of Medicine professor. “The way we’re going to get through this is if we do it together. We really need to facilitate community and conversation, and we have to ask adults to put themselves in the skins of the children.”

Colorado Springs Gazette, Aug. 20, 2021



[Many Kids Have Missed Routine Vaccines, Worrying Doctors As School Starts](#)

“I’ve been trying to shout it from the rooftops,” to get parents to take their kids in for routine vaccines, says **Sean O’Leary**, professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and vice chair of the Committee on Infectious Diseases for the American Academy of Pediatrics....”Frankly, a lot of the diseases that we vaccinate kids for are more severe in children than COVID, and so the last thing we want as we reenter the school year is outbreaks of these other vaccine-preventable diseases.”

NPR, Aug. 26, 2021



[Heart Problem More Common After Covid-19 Than After Vaccination, Study Finds](#)

Although the study is reassuring, it is important to continue collecting data on the myocarditis risks in young males in particular, scientists said. “But we’re at this red hot moment,” said **Sean O’Leary**, a pediatric infectious disease expert at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. “This is what we’ve got, and the benefits still consistently appear to greatly outweigh the risks.”

The New York Times, Aug. 25, 2021



[Data shows a second J&J booster shot increases antibody response](#)

Thomas Campbell is the Chief Clinical Research Officer at UHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] answered questions about the new findings. What does J&J say about the new findings? “When they were given a second dose of the same vaccine they had a nine-fold increase – that’s a 900% increase – in antibody levels,” Campbell said.

9News, Aug. 25, 2021



[Immunocompromised Coloradans Receive Third Dose of Vaccine At UCHealth](#)

“We saw that antibody response went from about 48% up to about 68%, so a significant change,” **Meghan O’Meara**, a nurse practitioner with the organ transplant team at UCHealth University of Colorado [and instructor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] said.

CBS4, Aug. 21, 2021



[FDA approval of Pfizer vaccine expected this week](#)

“There is a shocking amount of scrutiny down to the molecule, down the decimal, every data point,” said **Richard Zane**, chief innovation officer and chief of emergency services for UCHealth.

Channel 7, Aug. 23, 2021



[What does Pfizer’s FDA approval mean for Colorado?](#)

Today’s milestone puts us one step closer to altering the course of this pandemic in the U.S.,” acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock said. In Colorado, **Thomas Campbell** [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], who called the approval a “landmark,” is hoping for that outcome.

Rocky Mountain PBS, Aug. 23, 2021



[‘We Sent a Terrible Message’: Scientists Say Biden Jumped the Gun With Vaccine Booster Plan](#)

“Arguably, I think that the federal government is simply trying to stay ahead of the curve,” said **Joshua Barocas**, associate professor of medicine at the University of Colorado. But, he said, “I have not seen robust data yet to suggest that it is better to boost Americans who have gotten two vaccines than invest resources and time in getting unvaccinated people across the world vaccinated.”

Kaiser Health News, Aug. 20, 2021



[Colorado Woman Aims To Be ‘At The Top Of List’ For Booster Shot After Suffering Through Breakthrough COVID Case](#)

“I’ve had some patients that have had breakthrough cases, despite being fully vaccinated,” said **David Beuther**, a pulmonologist at National Jewish Health [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], who serves as a professor of medicine and the hospital’s chief medical information officer. “They’re grateful that

they're not in the hospital, because who knows, they could have been without the vaccine.”

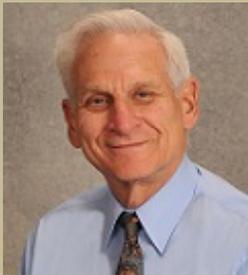
CBS4, Aug. 19, 2021



[Can I get a third shot? Questions about new COVID-19 vaccine guidance answered](#)

Jay Finigan, a pulmonologist at National Jewish Health [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], advised people who aren't sure whether they should get a third shot to talk to their doctors. “Like really every medical decision, this is a decision you should make with the guidance and counsel of your physician,” he said.

Denver Post, Aug. 20, 2021



[Long-Acting Monoclonal Antibodies Look Promising for COVID-19 Prevention](#)

Myron J. Levin, Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine, and principal investigator on the trial, noted that the “PROVENT data show that one dose of AZD7442, delivered in a convenient intramuscular form, can quickly and effectively prevent symptomatic COVID-19.”

Endocrinology Advisor, Aug. 24, 2021



[Medical community warns against using livestock drug ivermectin for COVID-19 treatment](#)

The drug is dangerous to humans, said **Richard Zane**, UHealth Chief Innovation Officer and professor and chair of emergency medicine at University of Colorado School of Medicine. “Let me be clear: it's unethical and immoral to recommend this medicine for COVID,” Zane said. “There is 0% evidence it works in any way shape or form. Anything you hear from anyone about ivermectin is designed to mislead you and hurt you, period. End of story.”

Fox31, Aug. 23, 2021



[Why Water Is Key to Your Heart's Health](#)

Still, **Robert Eckel**, past president of the American Heart Association and immediate past president of medicine and science at the American Diabetes Association [and professor emeritus of medicine at CU School of Medicine], suggested that the findings should be interpreted with caution. “These data in the abstract are interesting,” said Eckel, but are not definitive proof that drinking more water is protective of cardiovascular health.

U.S. News, Aug. 24, 2021