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[Key COVID-19 transmission metric improves but number of hospitalizations remain high](#)

“I think that we’re still seeing, every day, a significant number of admissions,” said **Abbey Lara**, a pulmonary critical care physician at UHealth [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*CPR News, Dec. 7, 2021*



[Youngest Coloradans eligible for COVID vaccine are lagging behind other age groups](#)

“People are super excited,” said Children’s Hospital Colorado [and CU School of Medicine] pediatrician **Brandi Freeman**. Then there are those who are “kind of hesitant and having questions about the vaccine.” Freeman said she’s had to take a different approach when it comes to discussing vaccines for some of the most vulnerable.

*9News, Dec. 3, 2021*



[Pfizer says its COVID-19 booster protects against omicron](#)

**David Beckham** has been studying the variants in a biosafety lab on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. He said the mutations on the omicron variant are allowing it to “sidestep” immune protections more than other variants. “Omicron has multiple mutations and a lot more mutations than any other variants that we’ve seen so far,” he said. “So for example, delta has a handful, six or so in this spike protein, and omicron has about 30.”

*Fox31, December 8, 2021*



### [COVID In Colorado: Health Expert In Denver Cautiously Watching Omicron Impact](#)

“If you look at data from South Africa, [omicron] seems to be spreading 2-3 times more quickly than delta, which means it’s going really fast,” said **Michelle Barron**, Senior Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control at UHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*CBS4, Dec. 6, 2021*

### [Next Question: If COVID mutates enough, will it become another virus?](#)

**Michelle Barron** with UHealth [and CU School of Medicine] said it isn’t so much about the number of mutations, but what the virus mutates into that determines the answer.

*9News, Dec. 7, 2021*



### [Some teens may get a Covid-19 vaccine booster soon, but younger kids might not get one at all](#)

**Sean O’Leary**, a professor of pediatric infectious disease at the University of Colorado School of Medicine who works with Children’s Hospital Colorado, said his fellow pediatricians are starting to hear from more parents, “particularly for the older kids who were vaccinated several months ago.”

*CNN, Dec. 7, 2021*

### [For Parents, Omicron Is Another Waiting Game](#)

**Sean O’Leary**, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Children’s Hospital Colorado [and CU School of Medicine] said: “For me, it’s not changing that much of what we need to do. The problem is so many people are not doing what they need to do,” because of exhaustion and because policymakers in some parts of the country wish for the pandemic to be over.

*The New York Times, Dec. 4, 2021*



### [With omicron in the US, do I need to change my holiday plans?](#)

“It’s premature, again, to sort of know what this is going to do, but it shouldn’t change your plans for the holidays,” said **Michelle Barron**, the senior medical director of infection prevention at UCHHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*Fox31, Dec. 1, 2021*



### [What Coloradans need to know about omicron: ‘no reason to panic’](#)

The news of Colorado’s first case was a big enough deal for Gov. Jared Polis to announce it in a press conference Thursday afternoon. However, when asked if it was a significant finding, UCHHealth University of Colorado Hospital’s **Richard Zane** said, “no.” “It’s not significant. The assumption was 99.9% [that] by the time they identified this in South Africa, it existed in the United States probably for weeks, maybe even months,” Zane said.

*Fox31, Dec. 2, 2021*



### [‘Alarming’ Rate of Abuse in Pregnant Women With Epilepsy](#)

Study investigator **Naveed Chaudhry**, a recent epilepsy fellow and assistant professor of neurology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, described the finding as “alarming” and called for more support for this patient population.

*Medscape, Dec. 8, 2021*



### [Flavored tobacco products banned in Denver beginning mid-2023](#)

“We have to deal with this as a broad public health issue. Smoking, tobacco addiction, is an adult problem. We have to address it across the board: they (children) get their products from older people. So this ban needs to take that into account,” Chief of the Breathing Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado **Robin Deterding** [professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine] said.

*Fox31, Dec. 6, 2021*



[Want Injured Workers to Recover Faster? Reduce the Cognitive Load of the Claims Process](#)

Column by **John C. Peters**, Co-founder and Chief Science Officer of Gain Life and Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine: “Stress and anxiety can impair cognitive function, impacting thinking, planning, executing, and problem solving, all of which raise cognitive load.”

*Risk & Insurance, Dec. 3, 2021*



[Banner Medical Group backs University of Northern Colorado's plan to open osteopathic medical school](#)

According to a revised state statute outlining the role and mission of University of Colorado campuses, the university “shall have exclusive authority in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and physical therapy.” UNC President Andy Feinstein said last month he’s been working on a bill to change the state law to allow another public medical school.

*Greeley Tribune, Dec. 4, 2021*