



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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[Colorado hospitals can turn away patients as state grapples with covid-19 surge](#)

Right now there are “two Colorados,” said **Matthew Wynia**, director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. “If you’re in the health-care system — if you’re a patient needing services in a hospital or if you’re a medical practitioner, things are really bad,” he said. “But if you’re a regular citizen just walking around on the street, you wouldn’t know it. People are behaving as though things are normal.”

Washington Post, Nov. 2, 2021

[Colorado bioethicist calls hospital situation ‘dire’](#)

The biggest ethical issue Colorado faces, according to **Matt Wynia**, the Director for the Center of Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado, is choosing where to transfer patients and move staff, since hospitals in areas with a less vaccinated population are more overwhelmed than hospitals in areas with a higher percentage of people vaccinated against COVID-19.

9News, Nov. 1, 2021

[Colorado has 5th-highest COVID-19 rate in U.S.; Polis shows frustration](#)

But the state has not had to ration care in Colorado during the pandemic, said **Matt Wynia**, the director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado’s Anschutz Medical Campus.

Denver Gazette, Nov. 2, 2021

[‘Monumental strain’ on Colorado hospitals from COVID-19 spread prompts emergency measures](#)

"A year ago, we had criteria for when to implement things like mask mandates and we have blown past that," said **Matthew Wynia**, the director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. "I understand the political basis, because people really don't enjoy mask mandates, but without it there's a fair number of people who just won't do it ... I hate it, but I think it ought to happen right now for a month. We've got to make our way through this."

Colorado Newsline, Nov. 4, 2021



[Colorado hospitals allowed to turn away patients amid Covid-19 surge](#)

The majority of Covid hospitalizations are among unvaccinated people, "at somewhere between 80 and 90 percent across Colorado," said **Michelle Barron**, senior medical director of infection control and prevention for UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], the largest hospital in the Denver area.



Doctors and nurses have been taking extra shifts and working overtime to meet the growing need, said **Eric Poeschla**, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Colorado Hospital, where 85 percent of all Covid patients are unvaccinated.

NBC, Nov. 3, 2021



[COVID-packed hospitals delaying cancer surgeries, emergency care](#)

Richard Zane at UCHealth said Monday that healthcare is at its breaking point. "If you have a heart attack, get in an accident, have a stroke, it's likely that you are going to have delayed care, and delayed access to care because of the huge number of COVID patients that are hospitalized now. We simply don't have room for regular care," Zane said.

Fox31, Nov. 1, 2021

[Delayed checkups, health care resulting in sicker ER patients, longer stays](#)

"It's the busiest it's been in emergency medicine and emergency departments in over a decade," said **Richard Zane**, an expert in emergency medicine at UCHealth. "We're seeing what I believe to be almost two years of neglected health care. So, we're seeing lots of car

	<p>accidents, lots and lots of strokes, heart attacks, cancer, skin infections, the routine things that we see in emergency departments except we're seeing much more of them...and we're seeing increased severity."</p> <p><i>Channel 7, Nov. 3, 2021</i></p>
 	<p><u>Surge in Colorado Covid cases could force hospitals to ration services</u></p> <p>"If you have been waiting for an elective procedure for the last 18 months and are finally scheduled – you're vaccinated, you don't have Covid – your procedure might still get canceled if a hospital is totally full," said Anuj Mehta, a pulmonologist with Denver Health who serves on the governor's expert emergency epidemic response. "While this is a pandemic of the unvaccinated at this point – and the surges in the hospital are entirely being driven by unvaccinated folks – it is having a massive bleed-over effect on to the entire population."</p> <p>The state had also not had surges on the scale of other states, said Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection prevention and control for UCHealth. Other states "had flames from the get-go, whereas we have been smoldering along this whole time, and we are finally hitting that peak of saturation and seeing flames finally," said Barron.</p> <p><i>The Guardian (London), Nov. 4, 2021</i></p>
	<p><u>New Colorado health order allows hospitals to refuse patients as COVID cases and hospitalizations rise</u></p> <p>"I am very concerned that we are going to exceed capacity and what dictates capacity is going to be the number of safely staffed beds," said Anuj Mehta, a pulmonologist with National Jewish Health and Denver Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], who serves on the Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee. "It's no longer a question of ventilators. It's a question of safely staffed beds. If you typically have one nurse for two ICU beds, and now you're asking that one nurse to care for four ICU patients, that's not safe anymore."</p> <p><i>CPR News, Nov. 1, 2021</i></p>



Colorado's vaccine mandate did drive a lot of health care and government workers to get the shot – some more than others, though

"It was worth, in my mind, absolutely worth the squeeze," said **Michelle Barron**, [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine and] the senior medical director of infection control and prevention for UCHealth, one of the state's largest health systems. "I find it unfortunate that there were individuals that had to be let go, but I also feel strongly they don't belong in health care."

CPR News, Nov. 1, 2021



COVID In Colorado: Vaccinating Children Considered Integral Part Of Plan To Combat Pandemic

"We need to be everywhere, with this vaccine. We need to be where children are, we need to be where families are," said **Brandi Freeman**, [CU School of Medicine] pediatrician at Children's Hospital Colorado. Dr. Freeman says she's very excited, "Christmas is coming early for us in pediatrics. We're really excited for the opportunity to be able to vaccinate this really important population."



"I don't think we're going to hear a tiering approach to the pediatric population," said **Connie Price**, chief medical officer at Denver Health Medical Center [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. "I think the approval will be this broad group and certainly there may be some emphasis on those most at risk, but I don't think we're going to limit any group of children from waiting."

CBS4, Nov. 2, 2021



How will Colorado vaccinate thousands of children ages 5 to 11? With the help of pediatric offices, schools and maybe even zoos

Lalit Bajaj, from Children's Hospital Colorado [and CU School of Medicine], helped direct part of the clinical trials of the vaccine for younger kids. He said Colorado was the largest clinical trial site in Pfizer's worldwide pediatric COVID vaccine trial and that 5,000 parents signed up for their children to be considered for the study, with 253 ultimately taking part.

CPR News, Oct. 28, 2021

Many Colorado Doctors Ready To Use Anticipated FDA-Approved COVID Vaccine On Young Children

	<p>Lalit Bajaj with Children's Hospital of Colorado [and CU School of Medicine] said the hospital has been at the forefront of helping to get this vaccine approved for young children by having one of the largest groups of kids participating in the vaccine trials this summer.</p> <p>CBS4, Oct. 27, 2021</p>
	<p>Doctors address vaccine hesitancy of parents with kids 5 to 11</p> <p>"RNA stays in your system for a short period of time. And it produces proteins that then stimulate the immune response," Pediatric and Infectious Disease, Children's Hospital Colorado Eric Simoes [clinical professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine] said. "So, this RNA doesn't stay in your system for a long time."</p> <p>9News, Nov. 3, 2021</p>
	<p>FDA researching whether Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine can cause a rare side effect in teens</p> <p>"It's called myocarditis which is the rare side effect that we've seen with the Moderna vaccine specifically," said Joshua Williams, a pediatrician at Denver Health [and assistant professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine]. "Now the FDA is looking into whether or not there is an increasing concern at the rate of myocarditis in younger recipients of the vaccine."</p> <p>Channel 7, Nov. 2, 2021</p>
	<p>5 questions parents have about Covid vaccines for young kids – and answers from top experts</p> <p>And kids represent "an unvaccinated reservoir of individuals," says Ross Kedl, a professor of immunology and microbiology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.</p> <p>CNBC, Oct. 27, 2021</p>
	<p>COVID In Colorado: Focus Grows On Monoclonal Antibody Treatment As Cases Continue To Rise</p> <p>"Colorado is at the brink of breaking health care, there's no other way to put it," said Richard Zane, the Chief of Emergency Services at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital, among the hospitals in the state already using the monoclonal antibody treatment on those infected with COVID-19.</p> <p>CBS4, Oct. 29, 2021</p>



Why you should vaccinate your 5-to-11-year-old

Opinion column by **Sean T. O'Leary**, professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Children's Hospital Colorado and serves as the vice chair of the Committee on Infectious Diseases for the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a co-author: "This represents an important milestone in this pandemic, as, up to now, children under 12 have not had the protections that vaccines offer. Parents of children 5-11 years should take advantage of this opportunity to both protect them and take us one step closer to ending this pandemic."

CNN, Oct. 29, 2021



Blind faith? CU Anschutz professor studies vaccine hesitancy among faith communities

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic and the surge of people hesitant to receive a potentially life-saving vaccine, [University of Colorado Anschutz professor of pediatrics Joshua Williams](#) found himself drawn to investigating why people decline routine inoculations.

Rocky Mountain PBS, Nov. 1, 2021



Colorado business owners forced to act as public health experts as government shirks mask mandates

Just last week, **Robert Schwartz**, a Denver geriatrician [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], put his Nuggets season tickets up for sale after attending one game and realizing no one at Ball Arena was enforcing the venue's mask mandate.... "Our state is going in the wrong direction," Schwartz said. "The community has to get wise to the role they're playing in this. It's really frustrating to see people who won't do the minimum in a setting that could become a super spreader."

Denver Post, Oct. 31, 2021



Hosting unvaccinated guests at Thanksgiving? Here's some advice

"You want to have an honest conversation with whoever's coming and you can decide whether or not that is something that will dictate who comes or who doesn't come," said **Michelle Barron**, the senior medical director of infection prevention and control for UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

Fox31, Nov. 4, 2021



[After four brain surgeries, 17-year-old continues to win at chess and inspire](#)

"There are a lot of different causes, there are a lot of different ways that it manifests," **Brent O'Neill**, a pediatric neurosurgeon at Children's Hospital Colorado [and associate professor of neurosurgery at CU School of Medicine] who's performed all four of Griffin's surgeries, said about epilepsy. "The first line of treatment is always medicine."

Denver Post, Oct. 27, 2021



[Concussion Treatment Is Suffering From the 'Nocebo' Effect](#)

When it comes to concussion treatment, **Michael Kirkwood**, co-director of the Concussion Program at Children's Hospital Colorado [and professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at CU School of Medicine], tells a cautionary tale. One day, a 15-year-old boy suffered a concussion during a high school soccer game. After a day of rest, the young man returned to school; after a week, he seemed fully recovered. Then, 10 days following the injury, he started feeling tired and suffering headaches.



"Ten years ago, a lot of people were saying go sit in a dark room, don't interact with your friends, don't listen to music, don't go to school," says **David Howell**, director of the Colorado Concussion Research Laboratory [and assistant professor of orthopedics at CU School of Medicine] at the Anschutz Medical Campus. But that advice was "accepted clinical wisdom" with no actual evidence to support it, adds Kirkwood.



Earlier this year, Kirkwood, along with University of Colorado colleagues Howell and **Julie Wilson** [associate professor of orthopedics], warned physicians about the nocebo effect in patients with concussions [in a sports medicine journal](#).

5280, Nov. 2, 2021



A Colorado program introduces students from diverse backgrounds to the medical field. It's more important than ever.

Bringing more Spanish speakers into Colorado hospital rooms has only become more critical in the past 19 months as the pandemic has disproportionately affected the state's population of more than 1.25 million Latino residents and highlighted the "stark inequities faced by the Latino, Spanish-speaking community," said **Lilia Cervantes**, associate professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

Colorado Sun, Nov. 1, 2021



The Dire Consequences of Pleading Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity in Colorado

"I train forensic psychiatrists," says **Richard Martinez**, director of forensic psychiatry services at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. "I have not been able to place one of my forensic psychiatrists at the state hospital [in the past five years]." He, and others, lay much of the blame on low salaries and CMHIP's location in Pueblo.

5280, November 2021