Report: FDA to allow Americans to mix and match COVID-19 booster shot, health official reacts

The small study sounds promising and provides some proof that mixing shots is safe, but Michelle Barron, a senior medical director of infection prevention at UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], said more studies are needed.

Channel 7, Oct. 18, 2021

What is the COVID-19 death rate of vaccinated vs. unvaccinated?

Serious breakthrough cases are no longer rare but remain uncommon, according to Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection prevention with UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “I’d say two-thirds of our hospitalizations of individuals who are fully vaccinated are over the age of 60 and have underlying co-morbidities; whether it’s diabetes or obesity. The age is really an important distinction,” said Barron.

Fox31, Oct. 18, 2021

These 5 States Have “Out of Control” COVID

“We are certainly seeing more patients. More patients positive. We’re seeing more patients being admitted to the hospital. We clearly are not in the right direction,” said UC Health Chief Innovation Officer Richard Zane.

Eat This, Not That!, Oct. 18, 2021
Colorado Ranking Worse In COVID Cases As Dozens Of Other States Decline

“The predictability of this virus is that it’s completely unpredictable,” said Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection prevention at UCHealth Hospital [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

CBS4, Oct. 20, 2021

Vaccinated People May Be Even Less Likely to Transmit COVID-19 Than Previously Thought

“People want a final word, a guarantee,” Ross Kedl, an immunologist at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, told Healthline. “I’m sorry, but there are not any. But,” he added, “we do know what’s likely.”

Healthline, Oct. 18, 2021

Colorado doctors say Colin Powell’s cancer type could have impacted his fight against COVID

Connie Savor Price is the chief medical officer at Denver Health [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. She said this should not dissuade people from getting vaccinated. “I think that it shouldn’t be a lesson that vaccine doesn’t help in these populations, it absolutely does. But, we have to remember that the response isn’t quite as robust, and that’s why this group was the first group to be recommended for third dose booster shots for the mRNA vaccine,” Price said.

Fox31, Oct. 18, 2021

Physicians suffering from infertility face challenges on the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic

Christina Yannetsos’ patient was about her age, 38, and extremely sick with Covid-19. “I remember having a conversation with her kids who were probably anywhere from 10 to teenagers, and them asking me if their mom was going to die,” Yannetsos, an emergency medicine physician at the University of Colorado Hospital, recalled. “It was one of the most difficult things to have that conversation while I was also trying to build a family myself.”

CNN, Oct. 18, 2021
COVID Vaccine Trials Set To Begin For Children As Young As 6 Months

Myron Levin, a professor of pediatric medicine at CU School of Medicine who specializes in infectious disease and vaccinology, will lead the study for the Moderna vaccine. “For many reasons, I think it’s important that we have the vaccine for children but probably the most important is for children. Children do get sick. There are more children getting sick from COVID-19 than many other diseases that we protect them from right now.”

CBS4, Oct. 14, 2021

“Look into their eyes”: new CU School of Medicine portrait exhibit presents real people behind the letters LGBTQ+

Around 1979, Nancey Johnson Bookstein was outed by a fellow faculty member on the quad of the CU School of Medicine. The woman asked her Well, how’s it like to be gay? “We weren’t alone, and I hadn’t told her. And I was mortified. And I was actually afraid of losing my job,” Johnson Bookstein said at the opening reception of Eye to Eye: Portraits of Pride, Strength, Beauty at the same school where she went on to work as an associate professor of physical therapy for 38 years.

Carey Candrian, an associate professor at the CU School of Medicine, is the mind behind the portrait series. She studies how communication shapes — and is shaped by — perception, attitudes and biases in the LGBTQ+ community. She’s interviewed dozens of older adults from the community about their experiences with palliative care, hospital visits and living in assisted living or skilled nursing facilities.

CPR News, Oct. 18, 2021

Too hot to handle: can our bodies withstand global heating

Kidneys regulate blood concentrations of water and salt. So, the organs are the immediate interface between us and the climate crisis – because when it starts getting hot, we lose a lot of water and salt through sweat, says Richard Johnson, professor of medicine and head of renal diseases and hypertension at the University of Colorado.

The Guardian (London), Oct. 20, 2021
New weight-loss drugs could shift the scales

One of those pills, phentermine, is still widely prescribed, says physician Daniel Bessesen, a researcher at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. People taking phentermine on average lose between 5 and 10% of their starting weight. For people whose insurance won’t cover drugs like Wegovy, it’s the best available option, Bessesen says.

Chemical & Engineering News, Oct. 17, 2021

Doctors address myths about breast cancer

No matter what is out there on social media, Lisa Wynn, OB/GYN and service line chief for women’s services at UCHealth at the Highlands Ranch Hospital [and senior clinical instructor at CU School of Medicine], said it is important that women get regular mammograms starting at the age of 40 and that any woman of any age who has unusual symptoms in the breasts should get a screening scheduled immediately through their regular-care physician.

Centennial Citizen, Oct. 18, 2021

GUEST COLUMN: The key to a cure lies in Colorado communities

Column by Michelle Stocker, clinical trials research and communications professional at the University of Colorado Neurology Department’s Alzheimer’s and Cognition Center, and a co-author: “Advocacy groups, research sites and biopharmaceutical industry stakeholders along with The Center for Information & Study on Clinical Research (CISCRP) are working tirelessly to address many questions and concerns from participants, caregivers, and the public about the clinical research process.”

Denver Gazette, Oct. 18, 2021

Previous issues of the School of Medicine media report are posted online.