



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

August 27 – September 2, 2021

Distributed by the University of Colorado School of Medicine



[Increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations sparking new procedures, concern form Colorado health systems](#)

“The key thing is for people to recognize is that even if you’re younger, you still can end up in the hospital,” said UHealth senior medical director of infection control and prevention **Michelle Barron** [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “You could end up in the intensive care unit, and you can be quite sick from it.”

Channel 7, Aug. 30, 2021



[Colorado healthcare workers battle ‘compassion fatigue’ as COVID hospitalizations spike](#)

“You’re going up to face an enemy — this COVID — with folks who have made the conscious decision, for the most part, to not protect themselves with the vaccine,” said **Ben Usatch** the medical director for the emergency department at UHealth Highlands Ranch [and assistant professor of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “I’m tired, my staff is tired, my docs, my nurses, my techs, the people that clean the rooms we are just exhausted,” he said.



Elizabeth Harry is the senior medical director of well-being at UHealth [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] and said they have gone to great lengths to try and limit compassion fatigue by encouraging staff members to talk about it. “The most important thing is to acknowledge it and have an honest dialogue that it’s happening,” she said. “These are really compassionate people, and it is hard to watch suffering.”

Fox31, Aug. 31, 2021



[Delayed surgeries and stretched staff: Colorado hospitals prepare for possible fall COVID surge](#)

Michelle Barron, senior director of infection prevention and control at UCHHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], said she has “significant concerns” about reaching the levels seen in last winter’s peak again, and it’s likely that seasonal flu will return this year, after it almost disappeared last year due to anti-COVID precautions.



Heather Young, medical director for infection prevention and control at Denver Health [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], said the hospital has a plan for how to manage a possible surge, including postponing elective surgeries, but she’s hopeful they won’t have to use it.



Doctors and nurses are taught not to judge patients’ choices when delivering care, but dealing with another wave that could largely have been prevented if more people had gotten vaccinated is taking a toll, **Marc Moss**, head of pulmonary sciences and critical care medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, said....“I’m afraid that this wave, because of the reason it’s happening... is going to break the souls of health care workers,” he said. “I’m concerned people are just going to say, ‘I can’t do it anymore.’”

Denver Post, Aug. 29, 2021



[During pandemic, Denver Health has seen an increase in violent trauma cases](#)

Morgan Eutermoser is used to seeing people on their worst day as an ER doctor at Denver Health [and assistant professor of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine]. A shooting involving several kids this year though is tough for her to forget. “They all came in by different modes of transport,” she said. “Some were by ambulance, some were by police, some by private.”



“We have seen tragic cases that have come through the hospital that really do affect everybody,” said **Ryan Lawless**, Trauma Medical Director at Denver Health [and assistant professor of surgery at CU School of Medicine]. “From the person who registers them into the system to the person who has to take them out of the operating room when they have died on the table.”

9News, Sept. 1, 2021



[UHealth expands clinics to get third COVID-19 vaccine for people who qualify](#)

“The first two doses never get them to the level [of protection] that they need. Getting that third dose will get more of them to the level that’s needed,” said **Thomas Campbell**, chief clinical research officer with UHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. Campbell said vaccine protection significantly drops for people with weak immune systems over time compared to healthy people.

Channel 7, Aug. 27, 2021



[UHealth starts giving booster shots to high-priority groups](#)

Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection prevention at UHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], is among the staff to receive the third shot so far. “I don’t know the exact number but it’s quite a few. I think it speaks to the number of people wanting to get that extra protection,” Barron said.

Fox31, Aug. 30, 2021



[New National Jewish Health study reveals antibody data from vaccines, now focuses on booster shots](#)

Researchers like **Mike Wechsler**, professor of medicine at National Jewish [and CU School of Medicine], are grateful for test subjects like Morris. “It’ll be interesting to see whether or not you’ve mounted a response from your prior two shots,” Wechsler said to Morris as they prepared to get a blood sample.

Channel 7, Aug. 30, 2021



[Crowding in Massachusetts prisons led to increase in COVID-19 cases](#)

Increased crowding in Massachusetts state prisons led to an increase in COVID-19 cases, researchers reported in *JAMA Internal Medicine*. Abigail I. Leibowitz, an MD candidate at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and colleagues conducted a longitudinal ecological study of 14 Massachusetts state prisons between April 21, 2020, and Jan. 11, 2021.

Healio, Aug. 30, 2021



[RSV, child respiratory illness unseasonably high](#)

Kevin Carney, a pediatric emergency specialist for Children’s Hospital Colorado [and associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine], said RSV cases are a lot more common in the winter. “We really are not sure why this is showing up at such an atypical time,” he said. “There are a lot of different factors that are being looked at.”



Anne Jobman, of UCHealth Primary Care [and senior instructor of family medicine at CU School of Medicine], said the problem with MIS-C is it can present with a variety of symptoms and show up weeks after a child is exposed to COVID.

Highlands Ranch Herald, Sept. 1, 2021



[How 20 Minutes of Playtime Can Help Your Child’s Mental Health](#)

“The scariest thing I’ve seen with kids is a real loss of hope about the future and the current state of our world,” says **Jenna Glover** at Children’s Hospital of Colorado, a childhood psychologist of 17 years [and associate professor of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine]. “As a result, I’ve seen an increase of kids thinking about suicide and attempting suicide. That’s the starkest thing: More kids are losing hope and thinking there’s no solution to the problems they face.”

5280, Aug. 25, 2021



[Once-Blind Woman Gets Sight Back After 15 Years](#)

Video: Connie Parke discusses getting her sight back and how **Jeffrey SooHoo** [associate professor of ophthalmology at CU School of Medicine] changed her life.

MSN NowThis News, Sept. 1, 2021



[Migraine: Not just a headache](#)

The first thing that neurologist and certified headache specialist **Marius Birlea** [associate professor of clinical practice of neurology at CU School of Medicine] wants people to understand about a migraine is that the condition is a neurological disease.

Steamboat Pilot & Today, Aug. 29, 2021



[Drinking a Cup of This a Day Can Slash Your Stroke Risk, New Study Says](#)

“The association between caffeine and heart failure risk reduction was surprising,” said the review’s senior author **David Kao** in a news release. Kao is an assistant professor of cardiology and medical director at the Colorado Center for Personalized Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Best Life, Aug. 30, 2021



[Colorado woman describes unprovoked moose attack](#)

The moose ran off, and Schultz was flown to Denver Health with nine broken ribs, a cracked collar bone, a shattered scapula and a fractured vertebrae. **Fred Pieracci** [professor of surgery at CU School of Medicine] got to work. He’s one of a few doctors who doesn’t let broken ribs heal on their own but instead plates them with titanium to take the pain away. At the same time, another surgeon shored up her collarbone. “She looks better than I do, and probably feels better,” Pieracci said. “She’s defied all of our expectations.”

Fox31, Aug. 24, 2021



[How the situation in Afghanistan can impact military members mental health](#)

Daren Norris, a psychologist at the Cohen Military Family Clinic with the Anschutz Medical Campus [and senior instructor of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine], joined us to talk about the struggles some could be having.

9News, Aug. 30, 2021