COVID is in retreat, but “normal” is a long way off for Colorado hospitals

While a reprieve from COVID-19 is welcome, it doesn’t mean everything is back to the way it was before the pandemic, said Anuj Mehta, a critical and pulmonary care physician at Denver Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “We need to recognize this is a problem and stop the rhetoric that the emergency is over,” he said. “This is a five-year problem, and it needs to be a five- to 10-year solution.”

With previous waves, health care workers had a relative lull to recharge, but that wasn’t the case this winter, said Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection control and prevention at UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

Darlene Tad-y, vice president of clinical affairs at the Colorado Hospital Association [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], estimated hospitals in Colorado and nationwide have lost about 20% to 30% of their frontline staff since the beginning of the pandemic, either because they went to work for staffing agencies or left the industry.

*Denver Post, Feb. 17, 2022*
**Why Colorado hospitals will still see capacity issues even as COVID wanes**

“What you’re seeing at the state level is what we’re experiencing at the hospital level here at Denver Health,” Anuj Mehta [assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] said. At Denver Health, Mehta said they aren’t bringing as many COVID patients into the ICU, but their levels remain extremely high for a number of factors.

*Fox31, Feb. 14, 2022*

**Which children are at higher risk of severe COVID-19?**

Sixty-nine health care sites participated in the study, including the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Blake Martin, assistant professor in Pediatrics Critical Care Medicine, said he’s both encouraged and surprised by the results. “How can we predict beforehand which of these kids are going to go on to develop severe disease and be at higher risk for deterioration,” said Martin, who’s tackling that and more with the study.

*Fox31, Feb. 14, 2022*

**New study identifies risk factors for severe COVID in kids**

The lead author on the study was a Colorado-based pediatrician: Blake Martin with CU School of Medicine on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. KRDO spoke with Martin about the study’s findings and what the research means for parents and doctors.

*KRDO (Colorado Springs), Feb. 16, 2022*

**Mask Mandates Are Ending – but Should You Still Wear One?**

Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection prevention and control for UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], says that we’re at the point in the COVID pandemic when you have to consider your own individual risk—and make your choices accordingly.

*Real Simple, Feb. 16, 2022*
Your Healthy Family: As COVID cases decline, don’t sleep on monoclonal antibodies

Adit Ginde, is an emergency medicine physician with UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital and a professor of emergency medicine with the University of Colorado School of Medicine. “For patients that are early in their illness these are highly effective at clearing the virus preventing hospitalization and death and helping patients recover quicker,” said Ginde.

KOAA (Colorado Springs), Feb. 16, 2022

Your Body Knows You’re Burned Out

Burnout, as it is defined, is not a medical condition — it’s “a manifestation of chronic unmitigated stress,” explained Lotte Dyrbye, a physician scientist who studies burnout at the Mayo Clinic [and who this month was named Senior Associate Dean of Faculty and Chief Well-being Officer for the CU School of Medicine].

The New York Times, Feb. 15, 2022

Colorado Congresswoman Diana DeGette Prepares For Hearing Focusing On Mental Health Crisis

Colorado Congresswoman Diana DeGette is preparing to host a hearing on the nation’s mental health crisis. On Monday, she hosted K Ron-Li Liaw, the new mental health in chief at Children’s Hospital Colorado [and visiting professor of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine].

CBS4, Feb. 14, 2022

Telemedicine increases access to allergy care, but some hurdles remain

However, barriers to telemedicine care remain and need to be researched and addressed, according to Suzanne Y. Ngo, an instructor in the department of pediatrics at University of Colorado School of Medicine, and colleagues. “It seemed clear telemedicine would still be utilized in health care beyond the pandemic, so we wanted to evaluate what we could learn from our experiences during this period to help improve how we can continue to deliver care in an allergy clinic via telemedicine,” she said.

Healio, Feb. 16, 2022
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<td>Denver doctor helps fight racial health care inequities through online screening tool</td>
<td>A National Jewish Health pulmonologist is being praised for her efforts in co-creating a new online tool to help detect cystic fibrosis. The recognition comes as Jennifer Taylor-Cousar [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] took part in a virtual panel on Thursday to explore racial health care inequity causes and how it should be addressed.</td>
<td>Fox31, Feb. 10, 2022</td>
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<td>Cooking with gas could create in-home air pollution</td>
<td>“It’s not comparing apples to apples when you’re comparing methane from a stove to methane from a tailpipe, for example,” said Anthony Gerber, a pulmonologist with National Jewish Health [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “Even though you say it’s the nitrogen oxide causing the problem, it’s still a different chemical mix.”</td>
<td>9News, Feb. 15, 2022</td>
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<td>New Method For Stimulating Signaling To Improve Metabolic Health And Possibly Treat Obesity – ScienceDaily</td>
<td>Lead author of the study, Rushita Bagchi, is now a faculty member at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and was previously a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Timothy McKinsey, professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology, who is the corresponding author of the article. Both are part of the Consortium for Fibrosis Research &amp; Translation, a program funded by the CU School of Medicine to improve understanding of fibrotic diseases across various organ systems.</td>
<td>Verve Times, Feb. 15, 2022</td>
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<td>Oral Tofacitinib Produces Hair Regrowth in Children With Alopecia Areata</td>
<td>“A success rate of 73% is very good,” said lead author Cory A. Dunnick, professor of dermatology and director of clinical trials at the University of Colorado, Aurora. No serious adverse events occurred, and adverse events of any kind were limited, the researchers found.</td>
<td>Medscape, Feb. 14, 2022</td>
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<td><strong>Chinese Trial Data Won’t Cut It for Lung Cancer Drug, FDA Panel Says</strong></td>
<td>Sintilimab “potentially has application, but it hasn’t been proven. So it is problematic from that standpoint,” said Christopher Lieu, of University of Colorado, who voted to wait on further data. Though he noted that given the drug’s mechanism of action, “it’s going to be hard to believe that the data is going to be extraordinarily different in the U.S. population.”</td>
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<td><strong>CAR-T poised to create ‘paradigm shift’ in non-Hodgkin lymphoma</strong></td>
<td>It has been about 2 decades since such effective new therapeutics have been developed for this high-risk population, according to Manali Kamdar, associate professor of medicine/hematology at University of Colorado School of Medicine and clinical director of lymphoma services at CU Cancer Center.</td>
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<td><strong>Podcast: Piecemeal: Who Employs Your Physician?</strong></td>
<td>Who do you want your physician to be employed by? Guests include Lawrence Casalino from Weill Cornell School of Medicine; Shawn Martin, CEO of the American Academy of Family Physicians; Gail Guerrero and Cathy Romero from Gila Valley Clinic; and Kyle Leggott from the University of Colorado School of Medicine.</td>
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<td><strong>With his camera and sock, Colorado doctor captures stunning uniqueness of snowflakes</strong></td>
<td>Jason Persoff’s neighbors probably have some questions. When it snows, Persoff is often out on his front porch, standing still with his arms out straight, holding a dark black sock out into the snowfall. “It is, admittedly, a little odd,” said Persoff, the assistant director of emergency preparedness at the University of Colorado Hospital [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].</td>
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