Colorado COVID hospitalizations may peak at new highs soon, but bed capacity holds steady

At UCHealth, roughly a third of the 362 patients infected with COVID-19 in the hospital are being treated for complications from the virus, said Michelle Barron, the system’s senior medical director of infection prevention and control [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*Denver Gazette, Jan. 12, 2022*

‘Incidental’ virus cases now a majority at UCHealth

“Patients who are unvaccinated still make up the vast majority of those in the hospital or in the ICUs who need treatment for COVID-19,” said Michelle Barron, UCHealth’s senior medical director of infection prevention and control and a professor of medicine and infectious diseases at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

*Loveland Reporter-Herald, Jan. 13, 2022*

COVID-19 outbreaks on rise as omicron spreads; UCHealth sees mostly incidental cases

“Patients who are unvaccinated still make up the vast majority of those in the hospital or in the ICUs who need treatment for COVID-19,” said Michelle Barron, UCHealth’s senior medical director of infection prevention and control and a professor of medicine and infectious diseases at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, in the release.

*Coloradan (Fort Collins), Jan. 14, 2022*

Are we past the peak of omicron cases in Colorado?

UCHealth Director of Infection Prevention Michelle Barron [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] found that gap has gotten wider with the omicron variant, with only 1/3 of their patients being hospitalized because of COVID in January, compared to 95%
hospitalized because of COVID in August during a wave of the delta variant.

*Fox31, Jan. 17, 2022*

**Many Hospitals Are Getting Overwhelmed. It’s a Crisis That Could Affect Healthcare for Years to Come.**

Fewer deaths, says **Michelle Barron**, senior medical director of infection prevention and control for the Colorado hospital system UCH [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], has eased the psychological burden.

*Barron’s, Jan. 14, 2022*

**ER doctors sound the alarm as Colorado’s hospital system shows cracks from the pressure of the omicron wave and staff shortages**

“I don’t want anybody to be dissuaded from seeking emergency care. That is not where we are. We are not in a position where we cannot care for people who have emergency medical conditions. We are well capable and well-staffed of doing that,” said **Richard Zane**, the director of emergency services at UCH. “The reason we’re doing this is so we can continue to care for patients with emergency medical conditions.”

*CPR News, Jan. 14, 2022*

**El Paso County hospitals caring for more COVID-19 patients than at any point during the delta wave**

The highly contagious omicron variant has also driven far more patients to seek care in emergency rooms for more mild cases, a trend prompting UCH to implement new screening to ensure the staff focus on patients in true emergencies when demand is at its highest, said **Richard Zane**, director of emergency services with the health system. “We are screening lower acuity patients to create more capacity,” he said.

*Colorado Springs Gazette, Jan. 18, 2022*

**Coloradans delayed care in the early months of the pandemic. The consequences will last for years.**

“Never in my life have I seen this,” said **Richard Zane**, an emergency physician with UCH. “And my first day was in 1993.”

*Denver Gazette, Jan. 15, 2022*
As COVID cases skyrocket, people at high risk for severe illness feel left behind

Jen Taylor-Cousar is her pulmonologist at National Jewish Health [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. She’s one of the directors of the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Center… “I think it’s hard because everybody else has moved on in a lot of ways and they have to continue to follow these same, strict precautions,” said Taylor-Cousar. “They’re still sort of trapped while the rest of the world moves on. It’s really, really hard.”

9News, Jan. 13, 2022

Flu hospitalizations rising as doctors battle omicron-fueled Covid surge

“We’re swimming in Covid right now,” said Sean O’Leary, an infectious diseases physician at Children’s Hospital Colorado [and professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine]. At the same time, he said, there have been steady increases in flu cases, around 20 to 40 new cases over the past month.

NBC News, Jan. 14, 2022

Does our child need to isolate? Can I use an at-home test on a baby? Your parenting pandemic questions answered.

Absolute answers are in short supply. With that in mind, we asked experts of different backgrounds to weigh in questions gathered from two dozen parents: Sean O’Leary, pediatric infectious diseases specialist, professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado and vice chair of the Committee on Infectious Diseases at the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Washington Post, Jan. 20, 2022

‘The situation is only going to worsen’: Colorado doctors call on Polis to enact crisis standards of care

Anuj Mehta, a Denver Health emergency physician [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] who led the effort to rewrite the overall standards in November, said emergency rooms needed support more than other areas of the hospital.

Denver Gazette, Jan. 18, 2022
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Image</th>
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| ![Image] | **High Desert K-12 systems blame COVID policy, not illness, as absences strain in-person learning**

While it’s confounding to many people that a virus can spread before the person who is infected with it even knows that they are sick or showing any symptoms, it’s not unusual, said [David Beckham](https://example.com), an infectious disease specialist who studies viruses in a lab he runs at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

*Victorville (Calif.) Daily Press, Jan. 14, 2022*

| ![Image] | **Covid Scotland: Risk of diabetes ‘doubled’ in children after infection**

[G Todd Alonso](https://example.com), associate professor of paediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, said doctors are also concerned that increased rates of obesity amongst children may increase the prevalence of type 2.

*The Herald (Glasgow, Scotland), Jan. 16, 2022*

| ![Image] | **Heart Function Rebounds for Kids With COVID-Linked MIS-C**

MIS-C happens in 1 of every 3,000 COVID patients, said [Pei-Ni Jone](https://example.com), a pediatric cardiologist with Children’s Hospital Colorado [and professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine].

*HealthDay, Jan. 19, 2022*

| ![Image] | **More Young Kids Are Getting Sick From Cannabis Edibles**

[Sam Wang](https://example.com), an associate professor of pediatrics at [CU School of Medicine] and Children’s Hospital Colorado, said young children who ingest a little cannabis typically become sleepy. They might walk unsteadily and “they look a little high,” he said.

*The New York Times, Jan. 14, 2022*

| ![Image] | **Why teens need more sleep, and how we can help them get it**

With children and teens readjusting to the world in the wake of pandemic isolation, sleeping well can be a protective factor, says [Lisa Meltzer](https://example.com), a pediatric psychologist at National Jewish Health [and professor of family medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “When you don’t sleep well, emotional regulation is one of the first things to go,” she says. “Insufficient, poor-quality or poorly timed sleep — each one of these can exacerbate mental health conditions.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Article Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Washington Post, Jan. 18, 2022</em></td>
<td><strong>Strong new evidence suggests a virus triggers multiple sclerosis</strong></td>
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<td>“This is a very intriguing article that extends our understanding of the role of EBV in MS development,” John Corboy, a neurologist and co-director of the Rocky Mountain MS Center at the University of Colorado, told STAT via email.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>STAT, Jan. 13, 2022</em></td>
<td><strong>Wealth of Newer Treatment Options Span the Scope of Multiple Myeloma and Amyloidosis</strong></td>
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<td>“Multiple myeloma is moving very fast right now. There are a lot of new agents…that are exciting, including oral options,” said Tomer Mark an associate professor of medicine, clinical director of the Plasma Cell Disorders Program, and clinical director of the Autologous Stem Cell Transplant Program, in the Department of Medicine-Hematology, at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>OncLive, Jan. 13, 2022</em></td>
<td><strong>Looking Inequity in the Eye With Dr. Carey Candrian</strong></td>
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<td>When Carey Candrian first arrived as an associate professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, she was not yet comfortable with identifying as a lesbian. She had known she was a lesbian since the age of sixteen, but hadn’t come out to anyone besides herself. While she knew she wanted to study health care for the older LGBTQ community, Candrian felt that she needed to be able to embrace her own sexual identity before asking her research participants to do the same.</td>
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<td><em>Westword, Jan. 18, 2022</em></td>
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