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[Colorado passes ‘grim milestone’ with over 1 million COVID cases](#)

“It’s sad to me,” said **Anuj Mehta**, a pulmonary critical care physician with Denver Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. Since the first cases arrived in the United States about two years ago, scientists have developed tools to manage the pandemic, such as wearing a mask and getting COVID-19 vaccinations. “They’re easy. They’re not a big deal. And the fact that there’s still so much reluctance to do those basic things, I find to be really sad,” Mehta said. “Because I think we were together on this as a community in March of 2020, and that very quickly fell apart.”

CPR News, Jan. 10, 2022



[Colorado’s COVID hospitalizations still trending up as state surpasses 1 million cases](#)

Eric Poeschla, chief of infectious disease at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, [tweeted Sunday](#) that the percentage of their COVID-19 patients in intensive-care units or on ventilators has dropped, but he’s concerned the number of seriously ill patients could increase again, simply because of the “tsunami” of people who have been infected. It’s a particularly difficult moment for hospitals, because so many employees are out sick with the virus, he said.

Denver Post, Jan. 10, 2022



[Fewer Colorado COVID patients hospitalized because of COVID compared to earlier in pandemic](#)

Director of Infection Prevention at UHealth, **Michelle Barron** [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], told FOX31 this figure is wildly different from her own statistical analysis of patients back in August, indicating more than 95% of COVID patients were in their hospital because of COVID with the delta variant.

Fox31, Jan. 12, 2022



[An omicron curveball: At two Colorado hospital systems, most COVID patients aren't there for COVID](#)

At Denver Health, medical director **Connie Price** [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] said a review of patient records in January discovered that about 60% of the hospital's COVID-positive patients had been admitted for reasons unrelated to the disease. This is a change from previous waves.



In August, **Michelle Barron**, UHealth's senior medical director of infection prevention and control [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], did a smaller review of COVID-positive patient records and found that about 95% of them had been admitted for treatment for the disease. "So it's a big turn in what we're seeing now," she said.

Colorado Sun, Jan. 12, 2022



[A common symptom of COVID-19 isn't very common among kids with omicron, doctor says](#)

Sam Dominguez, a pediatric infectious disease doctor at Children's Hospital Colorado [and professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine], says it's not surprising more kids are getting COVID-19. "Omicron is so much more transmissible than the delta variant that so many more children are getting exposed and infected that that results in an absolute more number of kids getting infected," Dominguez said.

WCNC (Charlotte, NC), Jan. 12., 2022



[Arsenal Against Omicron Weakening](#)

Joshua Barocas, an associate professor of medicine at the University Colorado School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus, said the medication shortages and ineffectiveness against omicron are concerning because "treatment is effectively our last line of defense."

Infectious Disease Special Edition, Jan. 12, 2022



[What To Do If You Get A COVID Breakthrough Infection On A Trip](#)

“The current guidance is that you isolate for at least five days and then, if your symptoms are improved or if you had no symptoms at the time of testing, that you wear a well-fitting mask for an additional five days,” said **Michelle Barron**, senior medical director of infection prevention and control at UHealth in Colorado [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

HuffPost, Jan. 7, 2022



[States and health systems activate crisis standards, new protocols as omicron strains U.S. hospitals](#)

Colorado’s crisis-standards activation focuses on EMS — including ambulance and paramedic services — “because the pinch points are largely not in the ICU, which is what we were worried about previously,” said **Matthew Wynia**, director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

Washington Post, Jan. 10, 2022

[Hospitals Are Rationing COVID Pills, Infusions as Cases Rise](#)

While unvaccinated people are at greater risk of hospitalization and death than those who have been vaccinated, that makes people feel “like you are rewarding intransigence,” **Matthew K. Wynia** told the *Times*. He is director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado and has advised the state on how to ration COVID treatments.

HealthDay, Jan. 7, 2022



[COVID-19 surge in U.S. creating severe lack of testing options](#)

Sam Dominguez is a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Children’s Hospital Colorado [and professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine]. He points out there are two main testing options. “We’ve had this problem all along since the start of the pandemic in terms of supply chain issues and getting the supplies that we need,” Dominguez said.

Channel 7, Jan. 6, 2022



[Denver Public Schools shuts down classes over 'severe weather and severe staffing shortages'](#)

At the Tuesday press conference, Children's Hospital Colorado's Chief Medical Officer **David Brumbaugh** [associate professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine] cautioned that the City of Denver should do whatever it could to keep schools open and running in-person, even as hospital capacity is stretched thin.

Denverite, Jan. 6, 2022



[Colorado universities mandate COVID-19 booster shots amid omicron surge](#)

CU Denver and CU Anschutz medical school officials also have made booster vaccinations mandatory, and CU Colorado Springs officials are "strongly recommending" boosters and COVID-19 testing.

Denver Post, Jan. 11, 2022



[With omicron infecting ambulance crews, Colorado gives dispatchers ability to screen who needs a ride](#)

Anuj Mehta, a Denver Health intensive care physician and researcher [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], said Friday that omicron will likely make it "much harder to access health care" in the coming weeks, thanks to the sheer number of infections it's bringing to Colorado.

Denver Gazette, Jan. 7, 2022



[Sales for melatonin soaring as pandemic disrupts sleep patterns](#)

"We've been able to show with lots of studies that we can shift to the body's melatonin curve to sort of be in line with what we want it to be," said **Katherine Green**, the medical director of the sleep medicine clinic at UCHHealth in Colorado [and assistant professor of otolaryngology at CU School of Medicine].

Channel 7, Jan. 7, 2022



[These medicine cabinet items could help alleviate symptoms brought on by omicron](#)

“Pulse oximeters are a great way to give us some reassurance. If the oxygen saturation is at 89-90% or higher, then your oxygen levels are adequate,” explained **David Beuther**, a pulmonologist with National Jewish Health [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

Fox31, Jan. 6, 2022



[Children Are up to 2.5 Times More Likely to Develop Diabetes After COVID-19 Infection, Study Finds](#)

“Having COVID—not just being alive during the pandemic, but actually getting the disease—was associated with increased risk of getting diabetes,” explains **G. Todd Alonso**, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. But it’s not clear exactly how COVID-19 and diabetes are related.

Prevention, Jan. 11, 2022



[The good, the bad, and the burnout of Telemedicine in Colorado](#)

“There was an absolute radical shift in telehealth adoption in March of 2020,” said **Chris Davis**, Medical Director of Virtual Health at UHealth [and associate professor of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “We had 1,000 percent growth in our virtual urgent care and close to three or 4,000 percent growth in telehealth in our ambulatory clinics.”

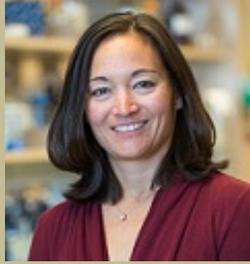
KRDO (Colorado Springs), Jan. 10, 2022



[Colorado kids catching up on routine vaccinations, but still below pre-pandemic levels](#)

Vaccination rates have dropped across the country and worldwide, giving viruses more potential hosts and chances to spread, said **Sean O’Leary**, an infectious disease pediatrician at Children’s Hospital Colorado [and professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine].

Denver Post, Jan. 11, 2022



[Breastfeeding May Protect a Mom's Heart Years Later](#)

"This study was done in a very scientifically rigorous manner, and that's important as it means we can have pretty good confidence that the results are true," said **Shelley Miyamoto**. She is chair of the heart association's Council on Lifelong Congenital Heart Disease and Heart Health. Miyamoto is also director of the cardiomyopathy program at the Children's Hospital Colorado [and professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine].

HealthDay, Jan. 12, 2022



[CAR T Cells Mend Broken Mouse Hearts](#)

"Using this approach to target and reprogram immune cells represents an innovative application for cardiovascular medicine and opens up exciting opportunities for developing novel therapeutics," **Ronald Vagnozzi** and **Timothy McKinsey**, heart researchers at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus who were not involved in the study, write in a joint email to *The Scientist*.

The Scientist, Jan. 6, 2022



[What Does a Pig-to-Human Heart Transplant Mean for Medicine?](#)

"I think even just a couple of years ago, people felt that xenotransplantation for the heart and other organs was still a long way off. And it seems like it's started to move very quickly," **Larry A. Allen**, University of Colorado School of Medicine, told *theheart.org* | *Medscape Cardiology*.

Medscape, Jan. 12, 2022



[Colorado scientists uncover oldest female infant burial in Europe](#)

Two Colorado scientists, Jamie Hodgkins and **Caley Orr**, headed the research team and co-authored the publication. To read their published article in *Nature*, click [here](#). Orr is a paleoanthropologist and an Associate Professor at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Hodgkins is a paleoarcheologist and Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado Denver.

Rocky Mountain PBS, Jan. 8, 2022



[Foot surgery could keep Denver Nuggets forward Vlatko Cancar out for remainder of regular season](#)

Medical imaging later revealed a fracture, and the Nuggets announced Friday that Cancar had surgery to repair his fifth metatarsal. **Kenneth Hunt**, of the UCHHealth Inverness Orthopedics and Spine Surgery Center [and associate professor of orthopedics at CU School of Medicine], performed the surgery, according to the team release.

Denver Gazette, Jan. 7, 2022



[Should INSTI- or TAF-Related Weight Gain Prompt a Switch?](#)

“I would argue that physicians should generally not switch patients from an INSTI regimen only in light of weight gain, mainly because we don’t know what regimen we should switch these patients to, or if it will help,” said **Kristine Erlandson**, an associate professor in the Division of Infectious Disease at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

Specialty Pharmacy Continuum, Jan. 12, 2022



[Denver Health CEO to retire](#)

Robin Wittenstein, CEO of Denver Health, will retire at the end of August. Denver Health’s Board of Directors has created a six-person executive search committee to identify Wittenstein’s successor. The Board has engaged an executive search firm to help with the process.

Denver Business Journal, Jan. 13, 2022



[2021 Colorado NIH Funding Recipients](#)

Ranked by Total NIH funding awarded in FY 2021 (Oct. 1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2021).

No. 1 **University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus** received 772 NIH awards totaling \$312.55 million.

No. 2 Colorado State University, 125 awards totaling \$49.92 million.

No. 3 University of Colorado Boulder, 58 awards totaling \$49.63 million.

Denver Business Journal, Jan. 7, 2022



[University of Northern Colorado seeks legislative approval for medical school](#)

The University of Northern Colorado will seek permission from state lawmakers to start up and operate an osteopathic medical school. It will be the second public medical school in the state, according to state Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg, R-Sterling, who will sponsor the bill, along with Senate President Leroy Garcia, D-Pueblo. In the House, the sponsors are Reps. Mary Young, D-Greeley and Perry Will, R-New Castle.

Denver Gazette, Jan. 11, 2022