A common respiratory virus is spreading at unusually high levels, overwhelming children’s hospitals. Here’s what parents need to know

Children’s Hospital Colorado has seen an early uptick in RSV hospitalizations and is starting to see the first few flu cases of the season, said Kevin Messacar, an infectious disease specialist and associate professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. “We have been seeing increased patient volumes since the late summer, which started with rhinoviruses and enteroviruses as children returned to school, and now is being driven by RSV and parainfluenza,” he said.

CNN, Oct. 21, 2022

Surge of viruses leaves children’s hospitals scrambling to free up beds and find room for patients

Kevin Messacar, an infectious disease specialist at Children’s Hospital Colorado, said his hospital is accepting patients from five nearby states. . . . “If we get influenza on top of RSV, that is going to put another significant strain on the system,” Messacar said. “If we can get as many people vaccinated as possible and protect as many kids as possible to try to help with the burden as we’re getting through RSV season, that would be welcome news for all of us in pediatric medicine.”

NBC News, Oct. 25, 2022

More kids hospitalized in Colorado as winter respiratory viruses get early start

Kevin Messacar, an infectious disease specialist at Children’s Hospital Colorado, said the number of children needing care for respiratory viruses started rising over the summer because rhinoviruses and enteroviruses were spreading.

Denver Post, Oct. 23, 2022
**RSV and other children’s respiratory illnesses are rising in Colorado**

RSV — which includes symptoms like coughing, wheezing and fever — peaks during colder months. But this year’s season started early and has higher than usual case counts, says Kevin Messacar, a doctor at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

*Axios Denver, Oct. 21, 2022*

**RSV hitting Colorado hospitals earlier than usual**

“We really worry about the young babies,” said Kevin Messacar with Children’s Hospital Colorado. “Young infants have difficulty sucking, swallowing and breathing at the same time anyway, and so you throw in a respiratory virus that clogs their nasal passageways, makes it difficult for them to breath, and they’re very apt to need support.”

*Fox31, Oct. 25, 2022*

**Pandemic ‘immunity gap’ is probably behind surge in RSV cases, scientists say**

“The degree of societal changes that occurred with the Covid pandemic really is unprecedented in modern day,” said Kevin Messacar, an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

*CNN, Oct. 26, 2022*

**For Kids with Long COVID, Good Treatment is Hard to Find**

National Jewish Health takes an intensive approach to treating kids with Long COVID, says program director Nathan Rabinovitch [professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine].

*Time, Oct. 24, 2022*

**Returning to activity is difficult, but possible with long COVID**

That low energy and low mood after exertion is one common symptom for long-haulers, and such symptoms could last up to 12 to 18 months, said William Niehaus, [assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at CU School of Medicine] who treats long COVID at the UCHealth Rehabilitation Unit at University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora.

*Steamboat Pilot & Today, Oct. 23, 2022*
**Worse COVID Outcomes Seen With Gout, Particularly in Women**

Kevin D. Deane, associate professor of medicine and chair in rheumatology research at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, advises physicians to keep in mind other conditions linked with increased risk for severe COVID-19, including advanced age, heart, lung, or kidney problems, and autoimmune diseases.

*Medscape, Oct. 24, 2022*

**Current Estimates Uncertain on the Prevalence of Dry Eye in United States**

“Studies included in the meta-analysis had diverse population characteristics, variations in study designs and settings, and heterogeneous definitions of dry eye, which increase our uncertainty in the summary prevalence estimate,” wrote study author Tianjing Li, Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

*HCPLive, Oct. 27, 2022*

**VIDEO: Cardiometabolic health management in older adults important**

Robert H. Eckel, emeritus professor of medicine in the divisions of cardiology and endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, former professor of physiology and biophysics, Charles A. Boettcher II Chair in Atherosclerosis at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and past president of the American Heart Association, said the first day’s focus on cardiometabolic health in older adults brought a number of issues related to the elderly population to the forefront.

*Healio, Oct. 21, 2022*

**The link between childcare stress and physician burnout with Elizabeth Harry, MD**

In today’s AMA Update, Elizabeth Harry, senior medical director of well-being at UCHealth [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] in Aurora, Colorado, joins to discuss the connection between high childcare stress and burnout among health care workers during the pandemic.

*AMA Update, Oct. 24, 2022*