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Dear Friends and Colleagues,  
 I hope you, your family, and your friends are remaining well. I have a few updates for you to consider.

**Pandemic Numbers:** There are 3 semi-independent pieces of information that are promising.

- **Covid Deaths:** The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation website (<https://covid19.healthdata.org/projections>) that forecasts its projections based on deaths, revised the peak number of cases in Colorado from 4/17/20 to 3/28/20 (U.S. curve has also flattened on their website with peak on 4/10). In addition, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is reporting a leveling off of coronavirus related deaths (<https://covid19.colorado.gov/case-data>); 8 reported deaths in Colorado in the last week).
- **Covid cases in Colorado:** the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (<https://covid19.colorado.gov/case-data>) shows a decrease in the daily number of new cases in Colorado over the past 10 days.
- **Covid hospital census data:** With the able assistance of Angela Keniston, I've been tracking the census at UCH, VAMC, CHCO, and DH. You can see from the table below, we've been increasing <10% per day (not exponentially) since 4/1/20. This leveling off/slow increase of hospitalized patients is also being seen at Denver Health and VAMC.

Date/Time	UCH-Inpatient total COVID-19+	UCH-Floor COVID-19+	UCH-ICU COVID-19+	UCH-ICU COVID-19+ Vent	VA Inpatient total COVID+	CHCO Inpatient total COVID+	DH Inpatient total COVID+
4/1/2020	100	50	50	46	5	2	38
4/2/2020	102	49	53	47	5	4	43
4/3/2020	102	49	53	50	5	4	43
4/4/2020	105	50	55	50	8	3	41
4/5/2020	106	48	58	50	9	2	39
4/6/2020	107	47	60	52	10	2	34
4/7/2020	120	58	62	58	12	3	37
4/8/2020	117	58	59	51	14	1	47
4/9/2020	114	55	59	53	14	2	45
4/10/2020	119	65	54	45	16	1	43
4/11/2020	118	64	54	47	17	2	42
4/12/2020	130	74	56	47	18	2	40
4/13/2020	132	78	54	42	18	3	45
4/14/2020	134	76	58	44	20	3	50

Although we may experience a second peak, these numbers are promising. However, we need to continue to do what's working, and plan for the worst and hope for the best.

**Clinical:** I want all of us to recognize our outstanding providers and hospital staff taking care of Covid-19 patients at UCH, DH, VAMC, and NJH. At UCH, Hospital Medicine has 6 Covid teams, Pulmonary Medicine has 4 surge ICU teams (2 of which are covered by anesthesiology and surgery), and ID has 5 consult teams. At last count, we've admitted 328 patients with Covid, ventilated 106 and extubated 40 patients with Covid, and discharged 172 patients with Covid. Only 23 patients have been readmitted and 21 patients have unfortunately died from this virus (12 over 75 years of age). I'm extremely proud of the contributions our providers and hospital staff have made to fighting this disease, caring for our patients, and working as a team. The comradery I see every day is something we have to preserve. The Covid crisis has pulled our community together and we are stronger for it.

**Covid-19 Medical Grand Rounds (MGRs):** The slides for our MGRs are posted on the on the [Grand Rounds library](#) and recording are available at the below youtube sites.

- **April 1: COVID-19: Challenges, Opportunities, and Unknowns:** <https://youtu.be/fvL7yv29Bf0?t=1>
- **April 8: Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, Interleukin-6, and Cytokine Storm Induced By COVID-19:** <https://youtu.be/UmsUqFUitA?t=1>
- **April 15: Crisis Standards of Care: 10 Years of Lessons Learned About Ethical Triage, But Are We Ready?:** <https://youtu.be/5P-BPasFL3k>
- **April 22<sup>nd</sup>: SARS-CoV2 Vaccine Development**
  - o Florian Krammer, PhD
  - o Rosemary Rochford, PhD
  - o Ross Kedl, PhD
- **April 29<sup>th</sup>: Challenges in the management of Covid-19 patients, case-based presentations**
  - o Kelly Bookman, MD
  - o Anunta Virapongse, MD
  - o Other speakers to follow

If you have suggestions for other topics or speakers, please let me know.

**Weekly DOM Town Hall:**

- We have had lively discussion at our weekly DOM Town Halls
- The next Town Hall will take place on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> between 7 and 8pm (join via zoom: <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/98034012095>). This is an opportunity for you to get your questions answered. Send questions in advance to Holli Keyser ([holli.keyser@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:holli.keyser@cuanschutz.edu))

**Finances:**

- Given our loss in clinical revenue, the DOM is conservatively projecting a \$4.3M deficit in FY20 and a \$2.9M deficit in FY21 that we will need to cover.
- Our deficit reduction plan will involve contributions from the divisions and the department. While this is an ongoing discussion with the division heads, I'm confident that we will be able to address the anticipated deficits through December. My primary goals are to continue to support our faculty, trainees, and staff, and the educational and research programs that we've built over the past decade.

Although we're moving in a positive direction, the return to a more normal state will take time and undoubtedly will test our values, patience, and endurance. Going back to the way it was is no longer an option. While we're still in the midst of the Covid crisis and need to keep doing what's working, we need to begin to plan our future. This will take strategic planning, interdisciplinary collaboration, and patience. We need to take the lessons learned from the past 6 weeks, incorporate the successes, and re-adjust to our new world. This won't be easy, however, I'm confident that if we continue to work together, we will succeed. Stay well and stay connected. Please send me your concerns and ideas. My very best wishes.

David

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