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 Subject: DOM Covid Communication
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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 I want you to understand.

- **Covid Deaths:** as I've said before, given the vagaries of who gets tested, coronavirus attributable deaths are a reasonable indicator of coronavirus activity. This assumes an accurate allocation of deaths to coronavirus. 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 4/8/20 (U.S. curve has also flattened on their website with a projected peak 4/11). 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>); deaths/day on 4/1=15, 4/2=13, 4/3=11, 4/4=7, 4/5=6, and 4/6=1).
- **Covid cases in Colorado:** the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (<https://covid19.colorado.gov/case-data>) shows a leveling off, if not a decrease in the daily report of new cases in Colorado (4/1=399, 4/2=450, 4/3=393, 4/4=386, 4/5=222, and 4/6=261). The last time we were below 222 cases/day was on 3/24 when we had 175 cases.
- **UCH Covid census data:** With the able assistance of Angela Keniston, I've been tracking the census at UCH. 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 SCLHealth.

Date/Time	UCH-Inpatient Total PUI	UCH-Inpatient total COVID-19+	UCH-Floor COVID-19+	UCH-ICU COVID-19+	UCH-ICU COVID-19+: Vent	UCH-ICU COVID-19+: Vent/ECMO
3/27/2020	24	51	28	23	20	1
3/28/2020	10	67	37	30	27	1
3/29/2020	2	70	35	35	32	1
3/30/2020	2	70	29	41	36	1
3/31/2020	1	86	37	49	44	1
4/1/2020	6	100	50	50	46	2
4/2/2020	1	102	49	53	47	3
4/3/2020	4	102	49	53	50	3
4/4/2020	2	105	50	55	50	2
4/5/2020	2	106	48	58	50	2
4/6/2020	3	107	47	60	52	2
4/7/2020	4	120	58	62	58	3

Although these represent positive concordant pieces of information, coronavirus has proven itself to be unpredictable. Consequently, it's unclear whether we've reached a plateau in the number of cases or whether this represents a momentary pause in the number of cases. We simply need to see what happens over the next 2 weeks. While we have planned for the worst, these next 2 weeks may not be as bad as anticipated.

Clinical: I want all of us to recognize the heroic providers and hospital staff taking care of our patients with Covid-19 at UCH, DH, VAMC, and NJH. At UCH, Hospital Medicine has 5 Covid teams, Pulmonary Medicine has 4 surge ICU teams (2 of which are covered by anesthesiology and surgery), and ID has 5 consult teams. Unfortunately some of our providers have developed Covid-19 infections which may or may not be related to workplace exposures. In total, 24 clinical faculty out of approximately 1000 at UCH have tested positive for Covid-19 (19 have returned to work and 5 have return to work pending). Also, one of our DOM residents has tested positive for Covid-19, and he/she has recovered and is back to work. **For those of you with direct patient contact, reduce your risk of Covid-19 infection by using PPE, limiting your patient exposure to essential decision makers, and adhering to strict practice of social distancing. I don't want you to get infected with this terrible virus.**

Medical Grand Rounds (MGR): Given the success of medical grand rounds this past week ("Covid-19: Challenges, Opportunities, and Unknowns"; link to full recording: <https://youtu.be/fVL7xv29Bf0>), we've decided to have the next several medical grand rounds focus on critical issues related to Covid-19. Each of these sessions will be 1 1/2 hours (12-1:30) with 45 min of presentation and 45 min of questions. Thus far, we have the following presentations planned (titles are likely to change):

- **April 8th:** ARDS, IL-6, and Coronavirus-induced Cytokine Storm (join via one of these zoom rooms: <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/787454325>; <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/544375297>; <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/590998067>; <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/719948119>)
 - o Ivor Douglas, MD
 - o Mercedes Rincon, PhD
 - o Charles Dinarello, MD
- **April 15th:** Crisis Standards of Care: 10 years of lessons learned about ethical triage, but are we ready?
 - o Matt Wynia, MD, MPH
 - o 1-2 other speakers that are considering the invitation
- **April 22nd:** Humoral and T Cell Approaches to Vaccine Development
 - o Rosemary Rochford, PhD
 - o Ross Kedl, PhD
 - o Potential guest speaker from Wuhan, China

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

Weekly DOM Town Hall:

- We had a DOM Town Hall this past week (link to full recording: https://youtu.be/x2c1Wkw_Dhg?t=1)
- The next Town Hall will take place on Thursday, April 9th between 7 and 8pm (join via zoom: <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/544375297>). This is an opportunity for you to get your questions answered. Send questions in advance to Hollie Keyser (hollie.keyser@cuanschutz.edu)

Finances:

- The DOM is conservatively projecting a \$6.7M shortfall in clinical revenue in FY20 and a \$3.1M shortfall in clinical revenue in FY21. This will require that we cover an anticipated FY20 deficit of \$4.3M and an FY21 deficit of \$3.1M.
- Our deficit reduction plan will involve contributions from the divisions and the department. We are exploring mechanisms to reduce expenses, increase revenue, and use funds from departmental quasi endowment accounts. 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 goal is to continue to support our faculty, trainees, and staff.**

Wellness:

- **Gratitude and Shout-outs: Send an E-Card:** DOM faculty, trainees, and staff are encouraged to send a note of thanks to colleagues [through this form](#).

- Two **new** sources of support during this difficult time are available for DOM clinicians:
 - #Difficult patient/situation distressing your team?** Sign up for a [Team Support Session](#).
 - #Leave it at work:** In-person staff support will be rounding at 7:30am and 3:30pm on COVID units (available to all faculty/staff and trainees on all units).
- [Tips for Protecting Your Family During COVID-19](#)
- [National Academy of Medicine Strategies to support the health and wellbeing of clinicians during the COVID-19 outbreak](#)
- [Wellbeing and Personal/Professional Development Courses](#) are offered through Dept of Surgery and are open to all DOM members

This is going to be one of the hard stretches in our fight against Covid-19. There has been and will be a great deal of hardship along the way, and the end is not in sight. We're at the point where we know what we need to do, and as tiresome and demanding as that might be, we just need to keep at it. While this stretch will test both our endurance and our core values, it will require that we continue to work together and support each other. I'm confident that if we continue to lift each other up, we will succeed. Stay well and stay connected. Please send me your concerns and ideas. My very best wishes.

David

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