

From: [Schwartz, David](#)
Subject: DOM Covid Communication
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Attachments: [Department of Medicine Accomplishments 2011-2020.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Dear Friends and Colleagues.

Happy New Year, my very best wishes to you, your family, and your friends for a healthy and fulfilling New Year. Let's hope this next year is one that builds on the many lessons we've learned or reinforced during this past year:

- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Knowledge of those in the trenches
- Importance of science
- Value of standards applied to healthcare
- Need to protect the healthcare workforce
- Value of telemedicine
- Need to address inequity
- Generosity
- Our families and friends
- And many more.....

By all accounts, we're doing well in Colorado.

- In Colorado (see graphs), over the past week, there has been an average of 2,200 cases per day (decrease of 26% from the average two weeks earlier), 40-45 deaths per day (decrease of 33% from the average two weeks earlier), and 1,000 hospitalizations (decrease of 33% from the average two weeks earlier).
- For the first time, IHME projects that Colorado has already experienced our peak number of cases and hospitalizations (<http://www.healthdata.org/covid/updates>).
- This decrease in cases per day is reflected in the census data at UCH, VAMC, DH, and NIH. At UCH, we have less than half the number of hospitalized Covid patients we were caring for only a few weeks ago.

The nation provides a heterogeneous picture.

- Covid cases have been relatively flat in the nation over the past couple of weeks - daily average >205,000 cases (5% decrease over the past 2 weeks), daily average > 120,000 hospitalizations (10% increase over the past 2 weeks), and daily average of >2400 deaths (no change over the past 2 weeks).
- Covid cases are increasing in many states, including Kansas, Wyoming, Mississippi, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, California, and South Carolina.

The number of cases and hospitalizations could increase over the next few weeks.

- Holiday travel (busiest travel days since the beginning of the pandemic) and family gatherings over the past couple of weeks may result in increases in Covid cases mid to late January.
- If you traveled or participated in large gatherings during the last couple of weeks, you should consider getting tested for Covid ([schedule your COVID-19 test here](#)). One dose of the vaccine does not make you immune to the virus, and we don't know what the vaccine does to prevent asymptomatic cases. While a negative does not rule out infection with coronavirus, a positive test will be beneficial to you and will also prevent the spread of infection. If you develop Covid symptoms or believe you may have been exposed during the holiday, please self-report ([self-report](#)). Travel specific information is available at the following website: <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions#travel>. Remember to follow social distancing guidelines, use a mask, and wash your hands frequently.
- The next DOM Town Hall is Thursday, January 7th (7-8 PM): Jon Samet, Dean of the CU School of Public Health, will guide us through a discussion that looks back over the past couple of months and tries to give us a glimpse of the future.

Departmental Finances: You have worked incredibly hard during this pandemic to maintain our clinical revenue. Due to your hard work, the exception job by Corena Carmichael and our Division Heads in managing our divisional and departmental finances, and little bit of luck, our financial picture is beginning to look OK. Looking forward, we're going to continue to prioritize the compensation of our faculty, trainees, and staff; will provide raises to those who have been promoted last summer; will continue to solicit new candidates for our Outstanding Early Career Scholars Program and Program for Academic Clinician Educators; have initiated a new program for Early Career Investigators who are supported by active Mentored Career Development Awards (six months will be added on to the end of an active Career Development Award; <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/medicine/research/research-funding/cda-supplemental-support>); and if we have a profit this next fiscal year, we will reinstate our DOM Academic Incentive Program. These programs and others are summarized in the attached document that highlights our accomplishments and programmatic development over the past decade.

In the spring, I discussed the analogy between the pandemic and a marathon, recognizing then that we were only in the early stages. While this has been a long haul and we've still got some tough times ahead, we're now at the beginning of the end of the pandemic. As anyone who has run a marathon knows, this is when you're at greatest risk of 'hitting the wall' or 'bonking'. Given the fatigue and isolation that many of us are experiencing, it's that much more important that we take care of each other and make use of the outstanding support services that are available (<https://youtu.be/nwXK8yOK8oM>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KesBKipghmU&feature=youtu.be>, and <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/medicine/faculty-affairs/covid-19>). We'll get through this as long as we continue to work together. Let me know what I can do to help. I look forward to hearing from you with your concerns and ideas. My very best wishes.

David

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