

From: [Schwartz, David](#)
Subject: DOM Covid Communication
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 1:09:33 PM
Attachments: [DOM Surge Plan 11.24.2021.jpeg](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

Dear Friends and Colleagues.

I hope you were able to get some restful time with your family over the last few days. Unfortunately, it's likely that the next couple of months will be our most challenging. The number of new cases of Covid, confirmed Covid hospitalizations, and Covid-related deaths continue to increase substantially in Colorado (<https://covid19.colorado.gov/data>; see below graphs). This is similar to what's happening nationally – over the past week there has been an average of >160,000 cases/day (an increase of 12 percent from the average two weeks earlier), and deaths are rising quickly toward their spring peaks, surpassing more than 2,000 in a day for the first time since early May. The IHME is predicting that the number of hospitalized cases in Colorado will continue to increase through most of January (<http://www.healthdata.org/covid/updates>).

At UCH, the number of hospitalized Covid cases have increased by about 5-10% in the past week with increased growth of the ICU patients (87 floor patients, 46 ICU patients of whom 28 are ventilated), cared for by 7 Hospital Medicine teams, 4 ICU surge teams, and consult teams from ID, renal, cardiology, GI and many other services. At the end of April, our highest number of Covid+ patients at UCH was 145 (87 floor patients, 58 ICU patients of whom 42 were ventilated). The VA, DH, and NJH are experiencing a similar increase in the number of Covid patients.

Importantly, we have developed a plan that we think will address the anticipated growth of inpatient Covid volumes (see attached jpeg). This plan was developed by Hospital Medicine in collaboration with Pulmonary Medicine, Department Chairs outside of the DOM, CU Medicine, and UCH. The plan represents a tiered approach that will engage teams of physicians outside of Hospital Medicine and Pulmonary Medicine once we've reached specific bed capacity thresholds. This plan is quite similar to the plan developed by the VAMC under Dr. Beck's leadership.

Departmental Finances: We are beginning to see the financial effects of this surge of Covid cases. Compared to last year at this time, our charges are down by 5% and receipts are down by 4% (each division has a unique profile). This is entirely consistent with what we had projected last summer and what we're prepared to deal with divisionally and departmentally. We're in the process of developing a more detailed understanding of these anticipated shortfalls and will be discussing them with the division heads this Wednesday. Despite these financial challenges, 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. I have and will continue to do everything possible to support your current level of compensation.

Our next DOM Town Hall will focus on the UCH Command Center – how it works – and is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 7-8PM. We've had a number of recent Covid-19 presentations in the DOM which were exceptional and are available on our website (DOM COVID-19 Resource Web Page: <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/medicine/faculty-affairs/covid-19>) and through the specific links below:

DOM Recent COVID-19 Grand Rounds:

Sept 30, 2020: [The Triumph of Despair: Health Inequities and Structural Racism](#)

Oct 14, 2020: [Impact of COVID-19 on Family Members and Providers](#)

Oct 21, 2020: [Effect of HIV-1 and SARS-CoV-2 on innate lymphoid cells](#)

Oct 28, 2020: [The Neutralizing Antibody Response to SARS-CoV-2 Infection \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XVf3myts0k&feature=youtu.be&t=2\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XVf3myts0k&feature=youtu.be&t=2)

DOM Recent COVID-19 Town Halls:

Oct 28, 2020: [COVID-19: What's Next?](#)

Nov 5, 2020: [Fighting Stigma: Facing Barriers to Mental Health for Faculty and Staff](#)

Nov 12, 2020: [Treatment: what's known and what's in the pipeline \(https://youtu.be/lywhVB3U5BY?t=1\)](https://youtu.be/lywhVB3U5BY?t=1)

Nov 19, 2020: [Vaccine Development, Trials, and Distribution \(https://youtu.be/Gsl-_ST-oNk\)](https://youtu.be/Gsl-_ST-oNk)

The pandemic is getting old for all of us, and I for one am feeling the stress, strain, and fatigue of the past year. Our lives have been substantially altered and some of our colleagues, friends, and family have been stricken by Covid. But we're still standing together, and your courage and dedication, as well as the scientific breakthroughs have created a path forward. We'll get through this together and the effective treatments, monoclonal antibodies, and future vaccines should give all of us hope for a brighter future. I am extremely

proud of your ability to work as a team, and remain inspired by your accomplishments. Keep up the extraordinary work. My very best wishes to you, your family, and your friends.

David

David A. Schwartz, M.D.
University of Colorado
12631 East 17th Avenue, B178
Aurora, CO 80045
Office: 303-724-1780
Cell: 919-824-9458
FAX: 303-724-1799
david.schwartz@cuanschutz.edu