



COVID-19 Communications

April 5, 2021

Things to Do

- The White House COVID-19 response team is considering a new initiative to integrate vaccination into the routine care plan for patients presenting at hospital emergency departments. The American Hospital Association (AHA) Survey Center emailed hospital CEOs or their designates to gather interest in participation. If your organization did not receive the email, contact surveysupport@aha.org.

What Has Changed Since Last Update

- Gov. Polis extended the statewide mask order this weekend, with some [new modifications](#). The Executive Order (EO) requires mask wearing in health care settings, schools, and other congregate settings. All counties in levels Blue through Purple will require that people wear a mask when in public indoor settings where 10 or more unvaccinated individuals (or if vaccination status is unknown) are present. Green counties, where there are 35 cases or less per 100,000 people, will be allowed to discontinue an indoor mask requirement. Thirty-one Colorado counties are currently in the green status on the dial.

- The FDA [said](#) that Moderna can add up to 50 percent more doses per vial of its **COVID-19 vaccine**. Moderna had been shipping 10-dose vials; the FDA's change will enable shipments to contain up to 15 doses per vial. In doing so, FDA also will permit vaccinators to extract an 11th dose from existing 10-dose vials. Such a change is contingent on the availability of certain syringes and needles. Read the FDA's updated provider [fact sheet](#) for more details.

Things to Know

- CDPHE issued a [Health Alert Network Broadcast](#) with updated guidance on several **COVID-19 topics**, including:
 - Updated guidance for testing, including the interpretation of antigen testing results
 - CDC guidance on the duration of isolation for patients with COVID-19
 - CDC guidance on the effective use of masks
 - CDC and CDPHE guidance on the need for testing and quarantine after vaccination
 - CDC guidance on Post Vaccine Considerations for Health Care Personnel
- As of April 3, **more than 1,200 Colorado providers have administered 2,733,245 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 1,825,918 people with first doses and 1,098,434 people who are fully immunized. The state's percent positivity remains above 5 percent, with the three-day average at 5.26 percent.

Upcoming Webinars/Calls

- April 13-15: ASPR 2021 Virtual Preparedness Summit. [Register here](#).

COVID Resources

[CDPHE COVID-19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

COVID Coverage

[FEMA to take over mass vaccination site in Pueblo, increase COVID-19 immunizations](#)

The Denver Post - Subscription required

The federal government will take over the state's mass vaccination site in Pueblo next week to ramp up efforts to get more people inoculated against the coronavirus. The site, to be run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will be located at the Colorado State Fairground, where vaccinations already are ongoing. The plan for the eight-week pilot program is to increase capacity from about 1,750 vaccinations per day to 3,000 per day, according to a news release.

[Additional COVID-19 vaccine sites open as many eager to book appointments](#)

KDVR-TV (Denver)

Many health systems are contacting current patients and member-based organizations are providing vaccines to non-members. Healthone tells the Problem Solvers the system has provided tens of thousands of first and second dose vaccines to the healthcare community, first responders, educators, and the public at large. Complete a COVID-19 vaccine request form to schedule an appointment.

[Vaccine appointment frustrations rise with more Coloradans eligible for shot](#)

KDVR-TV (Denver)

The state told her she might not get her vaccine until the end of May. But on Friday, Centura Health, one of the places where she'd signed up, told the Problem Solvers, Centura is now working on scheduling her first dose. "Everyone who wants a vaccine will be able to get at least their first dose by the end of May. Providers can prioritize individuals in higher risk populations who have been eligible in previous phases," a spokesperson for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said.

[ICU staff share experiences of battling COVID-19 alongside patients](#)

Montrose Daily Press

Laying in a hospital bed in isolation can be mentally and physically trying for patients, especially patients in the COVID-19 units at Montrose Memorial Hospital. While the coronavirus limits patients' interactions with family, MMH staff are taking steps to combat this isolation, treating patients like friends and family. Caring for patients as they would their loved ones has been a guiding principle for MMH staff that only became more important as staff treated patients with COVID-19. A team of doctors and nurses continue to treat COVID-19 patients daily, implementing new techniques and personal touches to support patients' mental and physical wellness.

["I have a life": Recovery continues for north Boulder resident who spent 65 days on ventilator](#)

The Denver Post - Subscription required

Barbara Gould isn't the same person she was at this time last year, when she was first hospitalized with COVID-19. When a person spends three months in four different hospitals,

everything changes. The north Boulder resident was on a ventilator for three times as long as the average COVID-19 patient at UCHHealth. She lost her hair. She had to relearn how to walk and talk. Her liver sustained untreatable damage. She's spent months in recovery. Her journey hasn't been an easy one, but with the support of her family and her faith community, Gould has found her way.

[Early data shows vaccine could help some COVID-19 'long haulers'](#)

KDVR-TV (Denver)

"All of this is very preliminary. It's promising, for sure and it does give us potential insight into mechanisms that could be contributing to the symptoms in the first place and methods we may use to try to treat it," said Dr. Bill Cornwell, cardiologist at University of Colorado Hospital. Cornwell has treated long-haul patients at UCHHealth's Post-COVID clinic. He said there is still a lot of mystery surrounding the long COVID and who it affects.

[Colorado health officials explore idea of vaccine passports as more and more residents are inoculated](#)

The Denver Post

While schools require students to get certain vaccinations and hospitals require employees to get the flu shot, there is a potential legal issue with companies requiring employees to get inoculated against the coronavirus, public health experts said. It mostly comes from the fact that the three vaccines on the market — Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson — have received emergency use authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but have not yet been fully approved and licensed by the agency.

[Despite Covid, Many Wealthy Hospitals Had a Banner Year With Federal Bailout](#)

Kaiser Health News

Like Baylor, some of the nation's richest hospitals and health systems recorded hundreds of millions of dollars in surpluses after accepting the lion's share of the federal health care bailout grants, their records show. Those included the Mayo Clinic, Pittsburgh's UPMC and NYU Langone Health. But poorer hospitals — many serving rural and minority populations — got a tinier slice of the pie and limped through the year with deficits, downgrades of their bond ratings and bleak fiscal futures. "A lot of the funding helped the wealthy hospitals at a time, especially in New York, when safety-net hospitals were hemorrhaging," said Colleen Grogan, a health policy professor at the University of Chicago.

[Increase in virus variation aligns with rise in COVID-19 cases](#)

Modern Healthcare - Subscription required

Surges in COVID-19 cases last year coincided with the emergence of new SARS-CoV-2 variants, a new study has found. Since its initial declaration as a pandemic in March 2020, SARS-CoV-2 has spread around the world, causing an estimated 129 million cases of COVID-19 and 2.8 million deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 dashboard. By studying

SARS-CoV-2 samples from early in the pandemic, researchers from the University of California, Davis, developed a metric they dubbed the pathogen genome identity (GENI) score that measures viral genetic diversity.

[Fauci Expects Surge In Vaccinations To Keep A 4th Coronavirus Wave At Bay](#)

National Public Radio

More than 56 million people in the U.S. have now been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Yet cases are rising again in some parts of the country, notably in Michigan and states in the Northeast. But Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Biden administration's chief medical adviser, predicts that the U.S. won't see a fourth wave of the coronavirus as severe as the previous three, thanks to the uptick in vaccinations.

[Johnson & Johnson testing COVID-19 vaccine on teenagers](#)

CBS News

Johnson & Johnson is now testing its COVID-19 vaccine on teenagers, the pharmaceutical company said on Friday. The drugmaker has been conducting a clinical trial looking at the safety and immune response of its vaccine on healthy adults since September. That ongoing study now includes adolescents 12 to 17 years of age, according to J&J.

[Study: COVID-19 Vaccine Is Safe During Pregnancy And May Protect Baby, Too](#)

National Public Radio

The risk of severe disease or even death from COVID-19 — while small — is higher during pregnancy. More than 82,000 coronavirus infections among pregnant individuals and 90 maternal deaths from the disease have been reported in the U.S. as of last month. But there's very little data on whether the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective during pregnancy, because people who are pregnant or breastfeeding weren't included in the initial clinical trials. (Pfizer recently began a new trial with 4,000 pregnant women.)

[CDC: Fully vaccinated people can travel safely](#)

Roll Call

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its travel guidelines on Friday to say people who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 can safely travel in the United States and overseas without self-quarantine or a coronavirus test, as long as they wear a mask in public spaces. This guidance does not change the guidelines for unvaccinated individuals.



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