



# COVID-19 Communications

April 7, 2021

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## What Has Changed Since Last Update

- CDPHE and the CDC [announced](#) that Colorado has identified two cases of the P.1. COVID-19 variant (often referred to as the Brazilian variant) in two residents of Boulder county. CDPHE is investigating possible exposures and performing contact tracing to determine if the variant virus has spread to others.
- CDPHE issued an amended [public health order](#) with updates to the COVID-19 dial framework. Specific changes include:
  - Authorizing Level Green counties to determine mask requirements.
  - Continuing six-foot distancing between non-household members in Level Green counties.
  - Updating seating requirements and capacity limits for indoor events in Level Green and Level Blue counties.
- All U.S. adults will become eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine by April 19, President Biden announced. That's a couple weeks sooner than the May 1 target he [announced](#) last month.

## Things to Know

- **FEMA announced additional assistance under its public assistance program for eligible costs to safely reopen and operate certain private nonprofits in response to the COVID-19 emergency, including private nonprofit medical facilities.** The [interim policy](#) provides 100 percent federal funding for eligible costs and work conducted Jan. 21 through Sept. 30, 2021, including certain personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfection, COVID-19 diagnostic testing, screening and temperature scanning, and temporary physical barriers for social distancing.
- The **American Hospital Association released additional COVID-19 vaccine confidence resources**, including a [social media campaign](#), an [infographic](#), a [replay](#) of a vaccination event webinar, and more. Additional communication resources are [available here](#).
- **CMS shared resources for health care personnel managing vaccine hesitancy. Medical centers, pharmacies and clinicians can use or adapt these ready-made materials to build confidence about COVID-19 vaccination among healthcare teams and other staff:**
  - [How to Build Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines](#) – This informational guide presents six strategies for immunization coordinators to build vaccine confidence within their health system or clinics.
  - The [COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Conversation Starter](#) - This tool is a prompt for engaging health care providers during an in-person or virtual meeting to identify tailored approaches to promote vaccine confidence within a facility.
  - Slide presentations and scripts are available to help educate health care personnel, teams and immunization coordinators about COVID-19 vaccination and build vaccine confidence within their organization – [Building Vaccine Confidence in Health Systems and Clinics: Tips for Immunization/Vaccine Coordinators](#) and [Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines Among your Patients: Tips for the Healthcare Team](#).
- The **Moderna COVID-19 vaccine continued to protect 33 healthy adults six months after receiving the second dose**, according to an ongoing clinical trial examining the vaccine's durability, published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#). Last week, Pfizer also [announced](#) that its COVID-19 vaccine was effective up to six months after the second dose.
- As of April 5, **more than 1,200 Colorado providers have administered 2,816,645 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 1,870,467 people with first doses and 1,121,334 people who are fully immunized. The state's percent positivity remains above 5 percent, with the three-day average climbing to 6.90 percent.

## Upcoming Webinars/Calls

- 1-2 p.m., Monday, April 12: CDC – Contact Tracing for COVID-19: Do We Still Need It? (You Bet We Do!). [Register here.](#)
- April 13-15: ASPR 2021 Virtual Preparedness Summit. [Register here.](#)

## COVID Resources

[CDPHE COVID-19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

## COVID Coverage

### [Colorado confirms first cases of COVID variant that reinfects survivors easily](#)

*The Denver Post* - Subscription required

The P.1 variant was first found in Brazil and pushed that country's health system to the breaking point, even in areas where many people had already had the virus and were thought to be immune. Other South American countries also are struggling with new waves of the virus, largely driven by P.1. The CDC notified Colorado that two Boulder County residents tested positive for the P.1 variant. CPDHE said Tuesday it is investigating whether they had traveled to other countries or states where the variant is spreading and attempting to find people who could have been exposed. The state health department didn't say whether the two people lived in the same household or whether they had symptoms.

### [The Number Of Seniors Catching And Dying From COVID-19 Has Plummeted As Vaccines Take Hold](#)

*Colorado Public Radio*

"I think it reflects the state's strategy," to prioritize older Coloradans for the vaccine shots, said Dr. Jon Samet, an epidemiologist and the dean at Colorado's School of Public Health, who directs COVID-19 modeling for the state. "I would agree completely," said Dr. Sean O'Leary, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Children's Hospital Colorado. "Vaccines work." "We're relieved, our members are relieved," said Bob Murphy, state director of AARP Colorado, one of the state's biggest advocacy groups, with 670,000 members. "They're beginning to feel that they can go out again and socialize with other folks who have been vaccinated."

### [Walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site opens in Aurora for VA ECHCS patients](#)

*KDVR-TV* (Denver)

This week, the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System will let enrolled veterans participate in a walk-in clinic at its mass COVID-19 vaccination site located at 14280 East Jewell Avenue in Aurora. The site will operate Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Officials say if supplies run out, veterans will then be able to make an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

### [Skepticism among the faithful leading to lower vaccine acceptance](#)

*KMGH-TV* (Denver)

"That's a big number to obtain, and so we need everybody on board to get to that level," said Dr. Thomas Campbell, chief clinical officer at UCHealth. "Ideally, we need everybody to get vaccinated." Campbell has confronted many of the conspiracy theories facing the vaccine. He says the lies about them resemble little about the true nature of the vaccines developed to battle COVID-19. "The only conspiracy I can think of is that a bunch of smart people got together and decided a way to take care of COVID," Campbell said. "Everything has been done in the public domain to an extremely large extent."

### [What is and isn't allowed in Colorado when it comes to compelling people to get a coronavirus vaccine](#)

*The Colorado Sun*

In testimony before an FDA advisory committee in October, Dr. Amanda Cohn, an official with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said federal law does not allow the government to mandate vaccines, even for workers in hospitals, when the vaccines only have approval through an EUA. "Mandates have been shown to increase coverage in some settings, but the federal government would not be mandating use of these vaccines," Cohn said. Hospitals do have the ability to mandate vaccines that have been fully licensed.

### [Colorado Health Department Explores Possibility Of Coronavirus Vaccine Passports](#)

*KCNC-TV* (Denver)

Colorado health department officials say they will explore the possibility of coronavirus vaccine passports. As of Monday, there is no statewide program for vaccine passports. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said last Friday that any potential vaccine passports would be primarily directed by private businesses. That's the case in New York, which has partnered with a private company to implement the passport system.

### [Front-line workers want more assistance after a year of COVID-19](#)

*Modern Healthcare* - Subscription required

More than half of front-line care workers say the stress of the COVID-19 crisis continues to hurt their health over a year after it began, but only 13% received support services, according to a

survey. Front-line workers under 30 were the hardest hit, with 56% reporting the pandemic stress had a negative impact on their physical health and 75% on their mental health. A majority (62%) of front-line workers reported similar struggles with mental health, over a year since the pandemic began. But instead of receiving support services, more found themselves coping through increased drug use (16%), or experienced trouble sleeping (47%) or stomach and head aches (31%).

### [Biden Says All U.S. Adults Should Be Eligible for Covid-19 Vaccine by April 19](#)

*The Wall Street Journal* - Subscription required

President Biden said Tuesday that all U.S. adults should be eligible for Covid-19 vaccines by April 19, speeding up a timeline he set out last month, and he urged Americans to be patient and take precautions as the rollout continued and new variants spread. Mr. Biden had previously called for states and territories to make all adults eligible for the shots by May 1. He put an emphasis Tuesday on calling for seniors, who are most vulnerable to severe disease, to get vaccinated.

### [Oxford Pauses Dosing in Trial of AstraZeneca Covid-19 Vaccine in Children, Teenagers](#)

*The Wall Street Journal* - Subscription required

The University of Oxford said it has paused administering doses of the Covid-19 vaccine it developed with AstraZeneca in a small U.K. study to test the shot in children and teenagers, pending further information about rare blood-clotting issues in adults who have received it. The Oxford-led pediatric trial started in mid-February and is aimed at testing the vaccine in more than 200 young people aged 6 to 17 years. An Oxford spokesman said Tuesday that no safety issues have arisen in the trial itself, but broader concerns about rare clotting problems in adults have triggered further regulatory reviews in the U.K. and Europe to investigate any potential link with the vaccine.

### [Scientists Race To Develop Next Generation Of COVID Vaccines](#)

*National Public Radio*

Now, researchers are racing to develop the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines, utilizing a variety of innovative technologies to produce more convenient and more potent options. Some of the new vaccines are already being tested in volunteers and could even be available for distribution in the next year or so. Scientists are exploring one set of changes that should be popular with people who don't like needles.

### [1 in 3 Covid-19 patients are diagnosed with a neuropsychiatric condition in the next six months, large study finds](#)

*STAT*

Six months after being diagnosed with Covid-19, 1 in 3 patients also had experienced a psychiatric or neurological illness, mostly mood disorders but also strokes or dementia, a large new study shows. About 1 in 8 of the patients (12.8%) were diagnosed for the first time with such

an illness, most commonly anxiety or depression. Compared to control groups of people who had the flu or other non-Covid respiratory infections, first-ever neuropsychiatric diagnoses were almost twice as high.

### [Many Children With Serious Inflammatory Syndrome Had No Covid Symptoms](#)

*The New York Times* - Subscription required

Many children and teenagers who developed the mysterious inflammatory syndrome that can emerge several weeks after contracting the coronavirus never had classic Covid-19 symptoms at the time of their infection, according to the largest study so far of cases in the United States. The study, led by researchers from the CDC, found that in over 1,000 cases in which information about whether they got sick from their initial Covid-19 illness was available, 75 percent of the patients did not experience such symptoms. But two to five weeks later, they became sick enough to be hospitalized for the condition, MIS-C, which can affect multiple organs, especially the heart.

### [Providers getting pummeled in COVID-19 property insurance lawsuits](#)

*Modern Healthcare* - Subscription required

Healthcare providers are leaving no stone unturned when it comes to recouping pandemic-related financial losses. They've had success with the federal government, which has doled out more than \$160 billion in stimulus grants and counting. But legal efforts like those from big names like Northwell Health, RWJBarnabas Health and Carilion Clinic to force property insurers to pay hundreds of millions in claims for business lost during the COVID-19 crisis so far haven't gotten a positive reception from judges.



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