



# COVID-19 Communications

April 20, 2021

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## Things to Do

- The CDC is hosting a webinar, "Diagnosis and Management of Suspected Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT)" at 11 a.m. today (April 20). Rare cases of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia have been reported following vaccination with the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. This one-hour seminar will review the background, diagnosis, and clinical management of this emerging disorder with experts from CDC and the American Society of Hematology, as well as how to report cases through CDC's Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). [Join the webinar here.](#)
- CDPHE and the immunization task force issued [additional information](#) on the state's vaccine rollout.
  - [Daily clinic tally sheet](#)
  - [Change of information form](#) for COVID-19 vaccine providers
  - [Changes in storage & handling training requirements](#)
    - [CDC storage and handling training](#); submit certificates of completion to [cdphe\\_covidvax@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_covidvax@state.co.us)
    - Data logger [request form](#) (including do not unplug tags, breaker tags, etc.) is on the Vaccines for Children [webpage](#)

- [Manual temperature logs](#)
- [Vaccine-specific trainings](#) on the CDC website
- [CIIS inventory and ordering trainings](#) for COVID-19 vaccine providers
- [How to receive a COVID-19 vaccine order in CIIS](#)
- [How to transfer COVID-19 vaccine in CIIS](#) (page 4 shows how to accept a transfer)
- Pre-drawing vaccine [guidance](#)
- COVID-19 vaccine [quick reference guide](#) for health care professionals
- Questions can be directed to PrepMod at [cdphe\\_prepmod@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_prepmod@state.co.us); the Vaccine Ordering Module Helpdesk at [cdphe\\_vom@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_vom@state.co.us); or the COVID Email Box at [cdphe\\_covidvax@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_covidvax@state.co.us)

## What Has Changed Since Last Update

- The FDA [revoked](#) the emergency use authorization that allowed for the **investigational monoclonal antibody therapy bamlanivimab, when administered alone, to be used for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults and certain pediatric patients**. Based on its ongoing analysis of emerging scientific data, FDA said that the known and potential benefits of bamlanivimab, when administered alone, no longer outweigh the known and potential risks for its authorized use. Contact [COVID19Therapeutics@hhs.gov](mailto:COVID19Therapeutics@hhs.gov) with any questions.
- On Friday, **Colorado's COVID-19 dial evolved into [Public Health Order \(PHO\) 20-38: Limiting COVID-19 Restrictions](#)**. This PHO allows counties to implement regulations at the local level while still maintaining some limited requirements at the state level. This PHO also rescinds and replaces [PHO 20-29](#) regarding voluntary and elective surgeries and procedures. A summary of the PHO changes is [available here](#).

## Things to Know

- The HHS Office of Inspector General [reminded](#) providers and the public that **health care providers participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program must administer the vaccines at no cost to recipients**. Consistent with the CDC Vaccination Program, providers are permitted to bill third-party payers (such as Medicare, Medicaid, the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program, or a private insurer) for an administration fee, in accordance with the payer's applicable billing rules.
- **HHS [announced](#) the availability of \$150 million in grant funding to community-based health care providers to support approximately 100 Health Center Program look-alikes (LALs)** to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19; strengthen vaccination efforts; and enhance health care services and infrastructure. LALs are community health providers that furnish essential primary care services to underserved

communities but are not Health Center Program grantees. [Grant applications](#) are due by midnight (ET) on Friday, May 14.

- As of April 18, **more than 1,330 Colorado providers have administered 3,448,915 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 2,366,344 people with first doses and 1,489,481 people who are fully immunized. The state's percent positivity remains above 5 percent, with the three-day average at 6.06 percent.

## Upcoming Webinars/Calls

- 11 a.m., Tuesday, April 20: CDC - Diagnosis and Management of Suspected Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia. [Join webinar here](#).
- 1-2 p.m., Thursday, April 22: Region VII Disaster Health Response Ecosystem – Exploring a Monoclonal Antibody Allocation Framework. [Register here](#).

## COVID Resources

[CDPHE COVID-19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

## COVID Coverage

### [Hospitalizations Increase To 500 Statewide](#)

*KCNC-TV (Denver)*

The number of confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Colorado continues to increase. On Friday, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment reported 500 people hospitalized with the virus in the state, the largest number since February 5. The 7-day average positivity rate among COVID-19 tests in Colorado is 5.71%. The state reported 2,260 new cases of the virus on Friday.

### [Here's what makes the fourth wave of COVID in Colorado different](#)

*KUSA-TV (Denver)*

Vaccinations appears to be keeping older Coloradans out of the hospital. SCL Health found that 65% of new COVID cases in Colorado this week were people under the age of 40. Ninety-two percent of those cases were people under the age of 60.

### [Which metrics will tell health experts that the COVID-19 pandemic is over?](#)

*KUSA-TV (Denver)*

There's no single metric that will determine when the pandemic is over. But there are a lot of factors that will allow doctors and health officials to safely say we're in a good place and can relax restrictions. Reaching herd immunity with a high percentage of people vaccinated is top of mind right now. "I would definitely say the pandemic is not over yet," said Dr. Michelle Barron, the senior medical director of infection prevention at UHealth. "Somewhere between 70%, 80% is probably the point at which we will feel comfortable that enough people are protected that it's not going to spread."

### [People fly to Cortez for coronavirus vaccines, but some who live in southwest Colorado can't reach a clinic](#)

*The Colorado Sun*

"We had a couple fly in to get their vaccine from Denver that couldn't get it in the Denver metro area," said Marc Meyer, director of pharmacy services and infection control for Southwest Health System, which includes clinics and a community hospital in Cortez. Others have come from neighboring states and as far away as California, Florida and the Carolinas. "They all come back for their second dose," he said. "Because it's so hard to get in the cities."

### [Denver says it wants to help more Latinos get the COVID vaccine. Data shows that's not happening.](#)

*Denverite*

Dr. Sarah Rowan supervises COVID-19 testing for Denver Health. Rowan, who has a few titles at the hospital, including associate director of HIV and viral hepatitis prevention, has noticed that fewer Latinos are being vaccinated by the hospital, as well. "In fact, over the last month, the gap between the percentage of the white population versus Latino population has actually widened," Rowan said. "So it seems like the disparities are getting worse in some ways."

### [El Paso County Report Shows COVID Vaccine Clinic Flouted Safety](#)

*KCNC-TV (Denver)*

Each provider goes through a formal enrollment process that is laid out by the CDC and CDPHE and must demonstrate capacity to meet all COVID-19 Vaccine Program requirements prior to becoming an approved vaccine provider, the state health department told The Associated Press. The state health department verifies medical licenses with the Department of Regulatory Agencies before approving COVID-19 vaccine providers. When providers enroll, they certify by signature that they understand the required protocol and have the proper equipment for vaccine storage and handling, the department said.

### [Covid-19 Cases Rise in Parts of U.S. Even as Vaccinations Pick Up](#)

*The Wall Street Journal* - Subscription required

Although half of all U.S. adults have had at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a constellation of factors are complicating the country's fight against the virus. States are scrambling to reorganize vaccination efforts after pausing use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine while U.S. health officials investigate rare but severe cases of blood clots.

### [All U.S. adults now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine: how to find a shot](#)

*CBS News*

American adults in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are now eligible for the coronavirus vaccine as of Monday, meeting President Biden's goal of April 19 eligibility. Mr. Biden set the April 19 goal earlier this month, although the vast majority of states had already expanded eligibility to all adults earlier than that. The U.S. is nearing Mr. Biden's updated goal of providing 200 million shots by his 100th day in office, despite the federal government's decision to pause the Johnson & Johnson vaccine after a small number of women who had received the shot developed a rare blood clot disorder.

### ['I doubt very seriously if they just cancel' paused J&J vaccine, Fauci says](#)

*Politico*

Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, predicted Sunday that the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine will continue to be used "in some form," though it could come with a warning or restriction. Asked in interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" whether it's more likely the vaccine will still be used with some restriction or not used at all, Fauci stressed that "everything is on the table" but estimated the vaccine won't just be shelved after federal agencies called for a pause in its use last week.

### [More young people are getting hospitalized as Covid variants spread. Here's what we know](#)

*CNBC*

Both doctors attributed the rise in hospital visits of teens and young adults, at least in part, to B.1.1.7, the coronavirus variant first identified in the U.K. that public health officials say is now the most common strain circulating in the U.S. The variant is highly contagious, thought to be about 60% more transmissible than the original strain of the virus. "I think they're getting infected more frequently because of the contagiousness of the virus," said Offit, a health expert in the fields of virology and immunology, who has also served on advisory panels for the CDC and the FDA. "So for that reason, I think you will see and are seeing more disease" in children and young adults.

### [U.S. will boost 'Do Not Travel' advisories to 80% of world](#)

*Reuters*

The U.S. State Department said on Monday it will boost its "Do Not Travel" guidance to about 80% of countries worldwide, citing "unprecedented risk to travelers" from the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Department already listed 34 out of about 200 countries as "Level 4: Do Not

Travel," including places like Chad, Kosovo, Kenya, Brazil, Argentina, Haiti, Mozambique, Russia and Tanzania.

### [We know a lot about Covid-19. Experts have many more questions](#)

*STAT*

STAT was curious which questions topped scientists' lists. So, we asked a bunch. More than two dozen virologists, epidemiologists, immunologists, and evolutionary biologists shared with us their top question. (Some ... cheated, submitting several.) There was surprising diversity in the questions, though many cluster around certain themes, such as the nature of immunity or the impact of viral variants. Knowing what scientists still want to learn shows us how far we've come — and how far we have left to go to solve the mysteries of SARS-2 and Covid-19.

### [Billions spent on coronavirus fight, but what happens next?](#)

*The Associated Press*

Congress has poured tens of billions of dollars into state and local public health departments in response to the coronavirus pandemic, paying for masks, contact tracers and education campaigns to persuade people to get vaccinated. Public health officials who have juggled bare-bones budgets for years are happy to have the additional money. Yet they worry it will soon dry up as the pandemic recedes, continuing a boom-bust funding cycle that has plagued the U.S. public health system for decades. If budgets are slashed again, they warn, that could leave the nation where it was before the coronavirus: unprepared for a health crisis.



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