



# COVID-19

# Communications

April 27, 2021

## Things to Do

- More than **600 patients statewide are hospitalized with COVID-19** as the fourth wave of cases continue. The vast majority of hospitalizations are among people that are unvaccinated, and hospitals are encouraged to use [CDPHE resources](#) to continue addressing vaccine hesitancy in their communities.
- Yesterday, Scott Bookman, CDPHE COVID-19 incident commander, [sent a notice to vaccine providers encouraging them to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to patients upon discharge from hospitals](#), long-term and other care facilities, among other recommendations.

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## What Has Changed Since Last Update

- On Friday, April 23, a CDC advisory panel [recommended](#) that the **U.S. resume the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine** after it was temporarily suspended due to a small incidence of patients developing TTS after administration. CDPHE has [issued guidance](#) to Colorado providers that they can **resume administering the vaccine immediately**. Vaccine providers are required to report any adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](#).

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## Things to Know

- CDPHE has established a [website](#) for vaccine appointments via the state's mobile clinics. The site includes a list of mobile clinic sites across the state that offer walk-ins and appointments in 15-minute increments.
- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment issued a [statement](#) reminding employers that **all employees in Colorado are entitled to paid sick leave from work to be vaccinated against COVID-19**. Employees are also entitled to use paid leave if they experience vaccine side effects that prevent them from working.
- Last week, the Health Resources and Services Administration released [fact sheets in English and Spanish on patient rights and provider responsibilities regarding access to COVID-19 vaccines](#). The resources emphasize that the vaccines are free to all individuals living in the United States; that providers can only bill insurance companies or the federal government for vaccine administration fees; and that HRSA's COVID-19 Uninsured Program pays for COVID-19 services provided to anyone without health insurance.
- A new CDC report on health care utilization following a COVID-19 diagnosis found that **68% of patients with mild case of COVID-19 get a new diagnosis within six months**. The report notes that clinicians and health care systems should be aware of the potential for post-COVID conditions. [Read the report](#).
- As of April 25, more than **1,355 Colorado providers have administered 3,755,335 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 2,517,655 people with first doses and 1,709,558 people who are fully immunized.
- The state's percent positivity remains above 5%, with the three-day average at 6.32%.

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## Upcoming Webinars/Calls

- 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 28 - COVID-19 Webinar: Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Update. [Register here](#).

**COVID Resources**

[CDPHE COVID-19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

## COVID Coverage

### [Colorado health officials follow CDC recommendation, lift pause on J&J vaccine](#)

*KDVR-TV (Denver)*

“It’s incredibly important that we’re transparent with the patients who will be receiving the vaccinations and we let them know the data that we’ve seen with this vaccine,” said Denver Health Chief Medical Officer Dr. Connie Price. Johnson & Johnson will now include a warning with the vaccine. It’s geared toward women who are 18 to 49 years old and states that a “causal relationship” between the vaccine and blood clots is “plausible.”

### [Almost everyone in Colorado who eagerly wanted a coronavirus vaccine has gotten one. Now comes the hard part.](#)

*The Colorado Sun*

While vaccination rates are increasing, the state remains far below the 70% to 80% of people needed to be immunized to reach herd immunity. What had once mostly been an issue of logistics — efficiently distributing available vaccine doses to meet overwhelming demand — has become a puzzle of persuasion: It’s time to convince people still on the fence about the vaccine to get their shot. “Now a different kind of hard work begins,” said Dr. Josh Williams, a Denver Health pediatrician who has studied why people are hesitant to receive vaccines.

### [Could a souped-up version of existing Covid-19 tests be our shortcut to tracking variants?](#)

*STAT*

Using targeted PCR-based testing, National Jewish Health in Denver has monitored as B.1.1.7 went from representing 19% of positive Covid-19 samples three weeks ago, to 35 percent two weeks ago, then to 73% last week. “We can see that shift, and we can start to understand how, locally, things are changing,” said Reeti Khare, NJH’s infectious disease laboratory director.

### [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.

### [62,000 Coloradans have missed their second COVID-19 vaccine appointment](#)

*KUSA-TV (Denver)*

"We've seen things where somebody actually has received their first dose out of state as an example and so they physically cannot get that second dose from where they were," said Dr. Andrew French, the VP for quality safety and clinical operations for Centura Health. At UHealth, they've made it possible to schedule just a second dose online.

### [Learning the lessons of COVID-19](#)

*The Brighton Standard Blade*

"There was so much hype and fear with the hospital personnel. Just because we work in a hospital doesn't mean that we don't have fear," said Wendy Colon, the Director of the Emergency Department and Emergency Manager for Platte Valley Medical Center. "With this emerging virus, everybody was a little bit nervous." Dr. William McNitt is the Emergency Physician at Platte Valley Medical Center since 2017.

### [COVID In Colorado: 2,500 'Orphan Doses' To Be Given At Dick's Sporting Goods Park](#)

*KCNC-TV (Denver)*

Centura Health says it has 2,500 Moderna COVID-19 vaccines specifically available to Coloradans who need their second Moderna shot. They call these shots "orphan doses." Officials say they are focusing on patients who got their first dose from another provider, but need an appointment for their second dose.

### [Want a COVID-19 vaccine? Thousands of appointments, drive-ups and walk-ups available in Colorado](#)

*KMGH-TV (Denver)*

"We've reached a point in time where the people who were ready for the vaccine right away have received one; now we have to reach others who may have barriers to getting vaccinated or hesitation to do so," said Ron Sparks, vice president of ancillary operations, who helps lead SCL Health's vaccination efforts. Centura Health is offering thousands of appointments on Thursday in Commerce City for patients needing their second dose of the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine.

### [UHealth now allows individuals to schedule vaccine appointments online](#)

*Longmont Leader*

Those seeking the vaccine do not have to be UHealth patients to schedule an appointment. Dr. Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection prevention and control at UHealth, said it's important that everyone who wants a vaccine can easily receive one. For those who are hesitant, she says, "The vaccine has proven to be very safe, and getting it can protect not only you but your family and friends as well."

### [Citing 'stunning progress' on coronavirus, Biden lifts outdoor mask guidelines](#)

*Reuters*

Fully vaccinated people can safely engage in outdoor activities like walking and hiking without wearing masks but should continue to use face-coverings in public spaces where they are required, U.S. health regulators and President Joe Biden said on Tuesday, while urging those

who have not to get the shot. The updated health advice comes as more than half of all adults in the United States have now received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### [FDA: N95 masks, now plentiful, should no longer be reused](#)

*The Associated Press*

Critical shortages of masks, gowns, swabs, and other medical supplies prompted the Trump administration to issue guidelines for providers to ration, clean, and reuse disposable equipment. Thus, throughout the pandemic, once a week many doctors and nurses were issued an N95 mask, which is normally designed to be tossed after each patient. Now U.S. manufacturers say they have vast surpluses for sale, and hospitals say they have three to 12 month stockpiles. In response, the government says hospitals and healthcare providers should try to return to one mask per patient.

### [Vaccinated? Great. You should still wear a mask when gathering in public, experts say.](#)

*The Washington Post*

More than 94 million Americans are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. Despite so many invigorated immune systems, the populace still needs to keep wearing masks, public health specialists say. The country is not yet so protected it can forgo face coverings. Case counts have spiked in some hot spots. Meanwhile, it's clearer than ever that masks protect wearers as well as those nearby.

### [California man who received Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine hospitalized with blood clot](#)

*Fox News*

A male patient is under care at the University of California San Francisco medical center for blood clotting after he received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, a spokeswoman confirmed to Fox News. "To the best of our knowledge, this is the first male patient with VITT (vaccine-induced thrombotic thrombocytopenia) syndrome in the U.S. following the U.S. emergency authorization of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine on Feb. 27, 2021," UCSF spokeswoman Suzanne Leigh said in a statement.

### [White House writes off Johnson & Johnson vaccine after string of production failures](#)

*Politico*

The Biden administration has stood by Johnson & Johnson as the vaccine maker struggled to deliver promised doses of its Covid-19 vaccine — but privately, frustrated senior health officials have largely written off the shot, according to seven people with knowledge of the matter.

### [Millions Are Skipping Their Second Doses of Covid Vaccines](#)

*The New York Times* – Subscription required

More than five million people, or nearly 8 percent of those who got a first shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, have missed their second doses, according to the most recent data from the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That is more than double the rate among people who got inoculated in the first several weeks of the nationwide vaccine campaign.

### [Pandemic Imperiled Non-English Speakers More Than Others](#)

*Kaiser Health News*

Patients who didn't speak much, or any, English had a 35% greater chance of death. Hospitals across the country have reported more hospitalizations and deaths of Black and Latino patients than of whites. Black and brown patients may be more susceptible because they are more likely to have a chronic illness that increases the risk of serious covid. But when the Brigham team compared Black and brown patients with white patients who had similar chronic illnesses, they found no difference in the risk of death from covid. But a difference did emerge for Latino patients who don't speak English. That sobering realization helped them home in on a specific health disparity, think about some possible solutions and begin a commitment to change.

### [68% of patients with mild case of COVID-19 get new diagnosis within 6 months, CDC finds](#)

*Becker's Hospital Review*

Two-thirds of nonhospitalized COVID-19 patients had at least one outpatient visit that resulted in a new diagnosis within six months of being diagnosed with the virus, the CDC's latest Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report found. Findings showed 69 percent of the study group had at least one outpatient visit between 28 and 180 days after their coronavirus diagnosis. Of those, 68 percent received a new primary diagnosis such as a cough, shortness of breath, chest or throat pain and fatigue, "which likely represent ongoing COVID-19 symptoms," the report said. COVID-19 was recorded as an active diagnosis for 210 of the 2,177 patients with one or more outpatients visits.



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