



COVID-19 Communications

May 6, 2021

Things To Do

- CDPHE has **doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine intended for patients being discharged from emergency departments**. Facilities with the capacity to distribute these doses quickly should contact Jennifer Yara-Zelenski at jennifer.yara-zelenski@state.co.us with the quantities the organization can use. This is available for one-time orders – for future orders, please continue to use the [CIIS site](#).
 - The North Central Region Healthcare Coalition (NCRHC) and the Healthcare Worker Resilience and Retention Initiative at CDPHE have [launched](#) a **statewide COVID-19 Impact and Recovery Survey to identify gaps in resources or services for anyone who is supporting or has supported the COVID-19 response in Colorado**. More information can be found on the [North Central Region Healthcare Coalition website](#).
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What's Changed Since the Last Update

- On Tuesday, HHS [announced](#) nearly **\$1 billion from the American Rescue Plan for rural COVID-19 response**. According to the release, HHS will use the funding to increase the number of vaccines sent to rural communities, expand testing and other COVID-19 prevention services, and work to increase vaccine confidence by empowering trusted local voices with additional funding for outreach efforts in underserved communities.
 - HHS also [announced](#) that it is making approximately **\$250 million available to continue its vaccine confidence and uptake strategies in vulnerable communities**. The first of two [funding opportunities](#) is now open, and applications are due May 18.
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Things To Know

- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [revoked](#) its **public health certificate of approval for Plastikon Industries' PLASMA N95-01 filtering facepiece respirator** for failure to meet filter efficiency requirements in a product audit. Effective April 8, the respirator is no longer NIOSH-approved and may no longer be manufactured, assembled, sold, or distributed, the agency said.
 - HHS and ASPR have created the [COVID-19 Clinical Rounds Peer-to-Peer Virtual Communities of Practice](#). These interactive virtual learning sessions aim to create a peer-to-peer learning network where clinicians from the United States and abroad who have experience treating patients with COVID-19 share their challenges and successes.
 - As of May 4, more than **1,394 Colorado providers have administered 4,514,937 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 2,654,257 people with first doses and 1,992,916 people who are fully immunized.
 - The **state's percent positivity** remains above 5%, with the **three-day average of 5.78%**.
 - **Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations are at 666**, up from 639 yesterday.
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Upcoming Calls/Webinars

- 1-2 p.m., Thursday, May 6 – **COVID-19 One Year Later: Updates from the National Disaster Distress Helpline**. Join the meeting [here](#).

- 2-3 p.m., Friday, May 7 – **CDPHE COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Update**. Join the meeting [here](#).
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. – **Be a COVID-19 Vaccine Champion**. [Register here](#).

COVID Resources

[CDPHE COVID-19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

COVID Coverage

[Children make up 26% of new COVID-19 cases in Colorado](#)

ABC News

Dr. Sean O'Leary, a pediatrician and professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, said highly transmissible variants, the lack of vaccine for kids and loosened COVID-19 restrictions are contributing to the numbers. "Kids under 16 right now are not eligible for vaccination so that's a group that is completely prone to getting infected at this point," O'Leary told ABC News.

[A Colorado woman developed rare blood clots from a coronavirus vaccine. She says you should still get vaccinated.](#)

The Colorado Sun

Doctors at UHealth University of Colorado Hospital were the first in the country to try a different drug in treating the clots. It worked, marking the first known instance in the country of doctors using the drug for the Johnson & Johnson clots. To Dr. R. Todd Clark, an emergency medicine specialist, the experience was encouraging, uplifting even — the kind of thing he got into medicine for. "This is not a scare-people story," he said. "This is a give-people-confidence story. This is success. This is everything working the way it should."

[‘We Are Back in the Vaccine World Again’](#)

The Holyoke Enterprise

At an April 27 meeting of the East Phillips County Hospital District Board of Directors, Melissa Memorial Hospital CEO Cathy Harshbarger said MMH's vaccine orders had been rejected for five

weeks. As of last week, MMH finally received 300 doses. “We are back in the vaccine world again,” said Harshbarger. MMH plans to offer 150 vaccines to individuals, reserving the other half of the vaccines for the second dose for those people.

[Some Colorado Doctors Asked To Help Calm COVID Vaccine Distrust](#)

KCNC-TV (Denver)

Vaccine hesitancy continues to be the focus among efforts to get more people vaccinated. There are new ways to make it easier especially in rural areas. Now, more local doctors are being asked by the President Biden administration to help break through vaccine distrust in their communities. Dr. Steven Loecke is a Chief Medical Officer at Banner Fort Collins Medical Center. “There are going to be demographics that are going to be suspicious or have not heard the message from either national sources or from national news. I think having that impact of having our local leaders in those rural environments is going to be critical,” he said.

[Healthcare providers in Colorado prep to vaccinate kids ages 12-15](#)

KUSA-TV (Denver)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is expected to announce emergency use authorization (EUA) for this age group to receive the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine by next week. “We already have a vaccine clinic being set up for ages 16-21 next weekend,” Dr. Reginald Washington, chief medical officer for the Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children (RMHC) in Denver, told 9NEWS. “It’ll be a simple matter of extending that down to 12-21 at our hospital.”

[It’s Easy To Get A COVID Vaccine In Pueblo Right Now. Too Easy.](#)

Colorado Public Radio

The Colorado State Fairgrounds in Pueblo has hosted a federally-run COVID-19 mass vaccination site since early April. But FEMA spokesperson Julie Brooks said the site's traffic is unpredictable -- apart from being well below capacity. "Some days are 500, the next day will be 200, and then we go up to 1,500," said Brooks. "There really is no rhyme or reason other than that Friday and Saturday seem to be the busiest days. So it's really hard to tell."

[117 Colorado nursing homes with COVID outbreaks received fines and payments from the federal government](#)

KUSA-TV (Denver)

More than 100 Colorado nursing homes that experienced COVID-19 outbreaks were fined for poor infection control and other pandemic-related failures — but those very same facilities also pocketed financial bonuses tied to infection rates, a 9Wants to Know investigation discovered. The fines and bonuses all came from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), 9Wants to Know found through an analysis of federal data. Facilities were paid \$10.3 million more than they were fined.

[Denver7 Gives fund raises \\$7,000 for man who received first COVID-19 related lung transplant](#)

KMGH-TV (Denver)

The last time Raymond saw his four children, he was struggling to breathe as his bout with COVID-19 took a terrible turn. Bryan needed a lung transplant at the University of Colorado Hospital on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus to save his life — the first COVID-19 related lung transplant in Colorado.

[Biden's new goal: 70% of adults at least partially vaccinated by July 4](#)

USA TODAY

President Joe Biden wants 70% of U.S. adults to have at least one COVID-19 shot by July 4, a goal he announced Tuesday along with steps to vaccinate harder-to-reach populations and preparations for vaccinating teenagers. "There are millions of Americans who just need a little bit of encouragement to get the shot," Biden said. "We need you. We need you to bring it home."

[Biden commits to waiving vaccine patents, driving wedge with pharmaceutical companies](#)

The Washington Post - Subscription required

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said the United States will now move forward with international discussions to waive the protections for the duration of the pandemic. U.S. officials helped block a World Trade Organization proposal that was introduced last year to stop enforcing patents for coronavirus-related medical products. Dozens of developing countries have pushed for the proposal, arguing that it would allow them to rapidly produce their own generic vaccines, rather than wait months or years for sufficient doses.

[COVID's US toll projected to drop sharply by the end of July](#)

The Associated Press

Teams of experts are projecting COVID-19's toll on the U.S. will fall sharply by the end of July, according to research released by the government Wednesday. But they also warn that a "substantial increase" in hospitalizations and deaths is possible if unvaccinated people do not follow basic precautions such as wearing a mask and keeping their distance from others.

['Turning the Corner': U.S. Covid Outlook Reaches Most Hopeful Point Yet](#)

The New York Times - Subscription required

Cases and deaths have dipped, and vaccinations make scientists hopeful, even as variants mean the coronavirus is here to stay. Public health experts remain cautious, but said that while they still expect significant local and regional surges in the coming weeks, they do not think they will be as widespread or reach past peaks. "We're clearly turning the corner," said Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

[CDC says coronavirus could be under control this summer in U.S. if people get vaccinated and are careful](#)

The Washington Post - Subscription required

Coronavirus infections could be driven to low levels and the pandemic at least temporarily throttled in the United States by July if the vast majority of people get vaccinated and continue with precautions against viral transmission, according to a strikingly optimistic paper released Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report comes as administration officials and leaders in many states are sounding more confident that the country can return to a degree of normalcy relatively soon.

[Moderna says Covid booster shot generates promising immune response against variants found in South Africa, Brazil](#)

CNBC

A booster shot of Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine generated a promising immune response against the B.1.351 and P.1 variants first identified in South Africa and Brazil, respectively, the company announced Wednesday, citing early data from an ongoing clinical trial. In the trial, Moderna is testing a 50-microgram dose of its vaccine in previously vaccinated individuals.

[Giving 2 Doses Of Different COVID-19 Vaccines Could Boost Immune Response](#)

National Public Radio

Typically, if you get a COVID-19 vaccine that requires two doses, you should get two of the same vaccine. Two Pfizer shots, or two Moderna shots. Not one and then the other. But in the future, that could change, either by necessity or by design. This idea of using two types of vaccines isn't a new concept. It's known as heterologous vaccination, although there's a more colloquial term. "In the U.K. at the moment, we're sort of calling it 'mix and match,' " says Helen Fletcher, a professor of immunology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She says shortages of a vaccine or concerns about side effects may induce health officials to adopt a mix-and-match strategy.



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