



COVID-19 Communications

May 20, 2021

Things To Do:

- To assist in clarifying new and existing masking and screening requirements for hospitals, CHA has developed a [crosswalk of state and federal guidance pertaining to requirements for hospital staff, visitors, and patients](#).
- 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](#).

What's Changed Since the Last Update:

- On Tuesday, CDPHE added a **new visualization to the [COVID-19 data dashboard](#) to show the proportion of positive test results that are made up by variants**. The

Colorado SARS-CoV-2 Variant Sentinel Surveillance program seeks to detect community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 variants and their potential burden of disease. For the week of May 2, the leading variant in Colorado was B.1.1.7, making up approximately 77% of sequenced test results. Variants of concern now make up over 87% of sequenced test results in the state.

- **FEMA has released [updated guidance](#) to help emergency managers plan for disaster response and recovery** while adhering to public health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The guidance includes considerations related to planning COVID-19 testing and vaccination operations, and updated resources based on lessons learned and best practices for operating in a pandemic environment.

Things To Know:

- **COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing.** This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines on the same day, as well as coadministration within 14 days, according to a [CDPHE Health Alert Network broadcast](#).
- A [new CDC report](#) shows that **COVID-19 vaccination lower in rural counties of most states.** According to the report, about 39 percent of adults in rural counties nationwide had received at least one vaccine dose compared with 46 percent of adults in urban counties.
 - Colorado appears to have bucked this trend, with 49 percent of rural Coloradans being vaccinated compared to 48 percent of urban Coloradans.
- As of May 18, **1,439 Colorado providers have administered 5,092,644 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 2,852,242 people with first doses and 2,394,141 people who are fully immunized.
- The state's percent positivity is decreasing, with a three-day moving average of 4.60 percent.
- Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations are at 521, down from 528 on May 18.
- ASPR TRACIE has made the [webinar recording](#) and [slides](#) available from its Be a COVID-19 Vaccine Champion webinar. In this webinar, the speakers discuss the campaign designed to build confidence in and address hesitancy related to COVID-19 vaccines.

Upcoming Calls/Webinars:

- 1-2 p.m., Thursday, May 20 – **Region VII DHRE COVID-19 Preparedness: Vaccine Hesitancy.** [Register here.](#)
- 11 a.m. – noon., Tuesday, May 25 - **A Systematic, Big Data Approach to Reducing Burnout and Violence.** [Register here.](#)
- 12-1 p.m., Tuesday, May 25 - **FEMA Funds Community Engagement for COVID-19 Vaccinations.** [Register here.](#)
- 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 26 – **Advocating for the Asian American Community during COVID-19.** [Register here.](#)

COVID Resources

[CDPHE COVID-19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

COVID Coverage

[Colorado has the worst coronavirus case rate in the country as it ends most statewide restrictions](#)

The Colorado Sun

The most recent modeling projections produced by health experts at several Colorado universities estimate more virus will be in circulation this coming summer than last summer. For weeks, the modeling projections have issued a dire warning: If the state relaxes restrictions now, more people will die from the virus by the end of July than if restrictions remain in place for a little while longer. The high rate of spread poses a problem even for people who have been vaccinated.

[Nearly 1 in 5 Americans filled a prescription for a mental health condition during the pandemic](#)

KMGH-TV (Denver)

Experts say whether it's heading back into the office after working from home or stressing about a family or friendly gathering, communicate your boundaries in a simple way. "You need to be presented with options because you are the captain of the ship. It's your mental health and you are the driver. You're the one who would take the medication every day. So it needs to be your decision," Dr. Eric French, medical director of adult psychiatry at Medical Center of Aurora, said.

['Different people move at different paces': Denver psychiatrist talks about post-pandemic anxieties](#)

KDVR-TV (Denver)

Dr. Zach Robinson, a Psychiatrist with HealthONE Behavioral Health Services, expects that to be the norm for awhile. There can be feelings of anxiety from people on both ends, those vaccinated and those not. "While we are seeing a lot of progress here in the U.S. we are also exposed to a lot of information all over the world where there are still countries struggling to manage the pandemic and dying," said Robinson. "It will be normal for people to not know what feels safe, and what doesn't feel safe at this time."

[COVID survivor: "Don't hesitate. Get the vaccine."](#)

Valley Courier (Alamosa)

when the vaccine became available, Lynn and Rebecca decided against getting vaccinated out of a hesitation about the unknown, long-term side effects. And then, almost a month ago, everything changed. "COVID is nothing to laugh about," he says. "Some people say it's just a cold, but this hit me like nothing else I've ever experienced. I'm one of the lucky ones. Soon, I can go back to work. But if I could go back in time, I definitely would have gotten the vaccine."

[PHOTOS: YVMC hosts 1st vaccine clinic for those 12 and older](#)

Steamboat Pilot & Today

UCHealth Yampa Valley Medical Center in Steamboat Springs held its first vaccine clinic since the COVID-19 vaccine was approved for those 12 and older Tuesday. Of the 124 people who received vaccinations this morning, 79 were in the 12- to 15-year-old age range.

[Denver Siblings Take A Shot At The Study Of A COVID Vaccine By Novavax](#)

KCNC-TV (Denver)

Three Denver siblings are the first children in Colorado to join the clinical trial for the COVID-19 vaccine made by Novavax. Dr. Thomas Campbell is the principal investigator of the study and Chief Clinical Research Officer of UCHealth. Results from a UK study showed the vaccine was 96% effective against the original COVID virus, 86% against the UK variant.

[Aurora doctor creates wristband that gives proof of COVID-19 vaccination](#)

KDVR-TV (Denver)

"He said, you know, we really should have something that shows that you've been vaccinated," Dr. Tashof Bernton said. After several discussions, the idea of the "ImmunaBand" was born. "You can either get it with just the QR code, or you can get it with your QR code, and your name, and the type of vaccination you receive," Bernton said. "As a physician, I really support the vaccination effort. The difference between us and India is the fact that we're very largely vaccinated," Bernton said.

[As doctors the choice is easy. We'll vaccinate our children, and you should too.](#)

The Denver Post - Subscription required - Opinion

"As both doctors and fathers, we're encouraging parents to get their children ages 12 to 15 vaccinated as soon as possible." David Brumbaugh is a board-certified pediatric gastroenterologist and the chief medical officer at Children's Hospital Colorado. Steven Federico is a board-certified general pediatrician and the director of general pediatrics at Denver Health.

[Fauci says Covid infections are decreasing in all 50 states](#)

CNBC

Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to the White House, said Wednesday that Covid-19 infections are decreasing in every state in the U.S. "All 50 states have now shown decreases in the number of infections," Fauci said in an interview with Axios, suggesting that the widespread declines will make it safer for Americans to resume activities such as indoor dining at restaurants.

[CDC director tells Senate she is 'cautiously optimistic' about state of fight against COVID-19](#)

Fierce Healthcare

A major downward trend in cases and hospitalizations has the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "cautiously optimistic" about the fight against the virus. But new variants could reverse some of the gains, especially as the virus continues to surge in other parts of the world, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, M.D., told a Senate panel Wednesday. "I think we would be remiss to say we are out of the woods," she told a Senate appropriations subcommittee during a hearing on the agency's budget.

['Public Health 101 failure': CDC mask decision may knock out Biden's workplace Covid crackdown](#)

Politico

"It's a Public Health 101 failure," said David Michaels, an epidemiologist who led Occupational Safety and Health Administration during the Obama administration who is now a professor at the George Washington University School of Public Health. "By giving advice to vaccinated people, but ignoring the fact that many or most people in many settings will not be vaccinated, the CDC is causing confusion and setting back our efforts to stop this pandemic."

[Experts Weigh In On The CDC's Gamble That Fewer Masks Will Lead To More Vaccinations](#)

National Public Radio

People who are fully vaccinated can now safely shed their face masks in many situations. That is what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last week. In changing its rules, the CDC is making a tacit gamble that easing mask rules will inspire more people to get their shots, but will it? Or will many people just rip off their masks regardless of their vaccination status?

[Stark Racial Disparities Persist in Vaccinations, State-Level CDC Data Shows](#)

Kaiser Health News

Black Americans' covid-19 vaccination rates are still lagging months into the nation's campaign, while Hispanics are closing the gap and Native Americans show the highest rates overall, according to federal data obtained by KHN. The data, provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in response to a public records request, gives a sweeping national look at the race and ethnicity of vaccinated people on a state-by-state basis.

[Vaccine boosters could be necessary as soon as September](#)

Axios

The first Americans to be vaccinated against the coronavirus could require a third "booster" shot as early as September, the CEOs of Pfizer and Moderna told Axios. "The data that I see coming, they are supporting the notion that likely there will be a need for a booster somewhere between eight and 12 months," Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said yesterday during an Axios event. That means some Americans could need a booster as soon as September or October, he added.

[Medical supplies top list of COVID response concerns at congressional hearing](#)

Modern Healthcare - Subscription required

Shortages in the Strategic National Stockpile even before the pandemic and the failed efforts of multiple agencies to coordinate access to personal protective equipment endangered the lives of healthcare workers and weakened the efficacy of American hospitals, lawmakers and experts testifying before a Senate committee Wednesday said. Over 580,000 have died during the pandemic, including 4,000 healthcare workers.

[Covid-19 Disrupts Years of Health Progress in U.S.](#)

The Wall Street Journal - Subscription required

Deaths from the Covid-19 pandemic are causing an extraordinary jolt in the U.S., inflating the nation's death rate to the highest level seen in nearly two decades. Whether the U.S. will quickly snap back to pre-pandemic levels following a mass-vaccination effort remains to be seen. Daily Covid-19 deaths are on their way back down, but the disease is unlikely to disappear, and health experts say there could also be long-running effects from issues like missed cancer screenings, a surging rate of drug overdoses and health inequities exacerbated by the pandemic.



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