

What Has Changed Since Last Update

- The **CDC and FDA issued a [joint statement](#) to recommend pausing the use of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine to study six cases of individuals who developed a cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (a rare and severe type of blood clot)**. All cases occurred in women between the ages of 18 and 48, and symptoms occurred six to 13 days after vaccination. The CDC will convene its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices tomorrow to review these cases and determine next steps. Health Alert Network Broadcasts are anticipated from the CDC and CDPHE with additional guidance for health providers.
 - Anyone who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the last three weeks and who develops severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath should contact their health care provider. **Health care providers should report any adverse events to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#).**
 - The Johnson & Johnson vaccine makes up only a small portion of Colorado's weekly vaccine allocation. This week, for example, the state's weekly Johnson & Johnson allocation is 9,700, compared to nearly 280,000 doses of Pfizer and Moderna the state expects to receive this week. **Most vaccine clinics will not be significantly affected.**
 - The **state's mobile vaccination buses**, which have been administering only the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine, **are canceled today (April 13)**. Additional details about future plans are forthcoming.
- **CDPHE issued an amended [Public Health Order \(PHO\) 20-29](#)**, regarding the limited recommencement of voluntary or elective surgeries and procedures in Colorado. The PHO **rescinds all requirements for reinstating elective medical, dental, and veterinary services, and it restates the requirements for hospital reporting in EMResource**. Hospitals are still required to report information for all suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19; deaths due to COVID-19; and medical equipment and supply information (i.e., bed capacity and occupancy, ventilator availability and utilization, and availability of N95 masks).

Things to Know

- The **FDA [urged](#) health care facilities to transition away from using crisis capacity conservation strategies, such as decontamination or bioburden reduction, to extend the use of N95s and other similar disposable respirators**. Due to increased supply of National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health-approved respirators, there is likely to be sufficient supply of respirators available domestically to allow organizations to transition away from decontamination or bioburden reduction and reuse of respirators intended as single use items, FDA notes. Additional details are available in this [Special Bulletin](#) from the American Hospital Association.
- **FEMA released [recommendations](#) to help organizations receiving FEMA COVID-19 public assistance document and account for disaster costs, comply with federal procurement standards and safeguard personally identifiable information.**
- **CDPHE [paused](#) COVID-19 vaccination at a clinic in El Paso County due to irregularities in vaccine storage and handling**. CDPHE suspended the provider for their participation in the vaccination program, and they will no longer receive doses while the investigation continues.

- CDPHE **launched** the “Power the Comeback” information campaign this week to **continue to increase access to credible COVID-19 vaccine information, reduce hesitancy, and help Coloradans access appointments.** The information campaign, in both English and Spanish, reinforces the fact that every person who is vaccinated is protecting themselves, their loved ones, and their community.
- As of April 11, **more than 1,275 Colorado providers have administered 3,130,605 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 2,122,809 people with first doses and 1,292,845 people who are fully immunized (about 27 percent of the state’s 16+ population). The state’s percent positivity remains above 5 percent, with the three-day average at 5.72 percent.

Upcoming Webinars/Calls

- Noon, Tuesday, April 13: HRSA – Get Educated on the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program. [Register here.](#)
- April 13-15: ASPR 2021 Virtual Preparedness Summit. [Register 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

Colorado’s COVID-19 hospitalizations keep growing as state prepares to give counties control of public health measures

The Denver Post - Subscription required

Colorado's COVID-19 hospitalizations continued to rise Monday as counties wrapped up preparations to set their own rules meant to keep the virus' spread in check. On Friday, the state will transition its color-coded dial framework from a way to dictate each county's level of openness to a tool local leaders can use as they see fit in setting their own public health measures. The metro area's largest local health agency, the Tri-County Health Department, already has rolled out its plan to phase out COVID-19 restrictions in the coming months, including through the introduction of a new lowest level on the dial — Level Clear — that will debut in mid-May.

Colorado is in its fourth coronavirus wave as more contagious variants become dominant among cases

The Colorado Sun

Colorado has entered its fourth coronavirus wave as more contagious variants of the disease have become the dominant form spreading across the state. Hospitalizations are at their highest level since Feb. 19 and cases have risen sharply in recent weeks, though not among Coloradans 50 and older, who have mostly been vaccinated. "It does appear that we have entered our fourth wave of illness," Dr. Rachel Herlihy, the state's epidemiologist, said. "But this wave is looking a little bit different. We have variants that are making spread of the virus easier, potentially causing more severe cases in some instances. But we also have a segment of the population that is protected through vaccination."

Two million Colorado residents are at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19

The Denver Post - Subscription required

More than 2 million people in Colorado have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, Gov. Jared Polis said in a statement Saturday. He called the vaccination push the "greatest national effort since World War II," and urged people who have not yet been vaccinated to continue wearing masks as the state enters a fourth wave of coronavirus infections. Just over 450 people were hospitalized Friday with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, and health officials are seeing more contagious variants of the virus spreading among people under the age of 50.

Centura Health to stop using Johnson & Johnson vaccine at Colorado mass-vaccination sites

The Denver Post - Subscription required

Centura Health will stop using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the three COVID-19 mass-vaccination sites it manages in Colorado, the health system announced Friday night, citing both a national shortage and a series of adverse reactions to the shots at its Commerce City location. Instead, Centura will offer the two-dose Pfizer and Moderna vaccines beginning Saturday at the drive-up sites at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City, Broadmoor World Arena in Colorado Springs and the Colorado State Fairgrounds in Pueblo.

Vaccine seized from medical spa due to storage problems

KMGH-TV (Denver)

About 3,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been confiscated from a Colorado Springs medical spa after county health officials observed problems in vaccine storage, prompting the state health department to investigate. The state health department announced Friday that it suspended vaccinations at Dr. Moma Health and Wellness Clinic and said investigators were working to determine if the observations were isolated or not.

Eastern Colorado VA now offering COVID vaccine to all veterans, regardless of enrollment

KXRM-TV (Colorado Springs)

The VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System is now offering the COVID-19 vaccine to all veterans, whether they are eligible for VA health care or not. To assist in this effort, the VA has opened a walk-in clinic in Colorado Springs. The clinic at [2260 E. Pikes Peak Ave.](#) accepts walk-ins from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. The number of available vaccines for walk-ins will be allocated each morning. If supplies run out, veterans will be offered an appointment for a later date and time.

Pitkin County health officials: Don't believe vaccine myths

The Aspen Times

Dr. Kim Levin, Pitkin County's medical officer and an emergency physician at Aspen Valley Hospital, said Thursday during a meeting of the Pitkin County Board of Health that younger people who have not been eligible for the vaccines until recently constitute a significant number of new cases. In fact, of the two people hospitalized with COVID-like symptoms at AVH as of Thursday, one was a 19-year-old, she said. She and Josh Vance, the county's epidemiologist, also pointed out that in a study of Roaring Fork Valley residents who have had the virus, 57% reported having at least one lingering symptom months later.

Westminster mother battling COVID-19 hoping to return to her children soon

KMGH-TV (Denver)

Shane spoke to Denver7 from her hospital bed at St. Anthony North Health Campus. Greene said she started feeling sick at the end of March and tested positive for COVID-19 on March 31. "It started with like regular cold, flu-like symptoms. The last thing I was thinking I had was COVID. I thought it was just a cold, but it was the chills, the headaches, the fatigue was intense. But I think the worst was not being able to breathe," Greene said.

US recommends 'pause' for J&J vaccine over clot reports

The Associated Press

The U.S. on Tuesday recommended a "pause" in using the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to investigate reports of rare but potentially dangerous blood clots, a development that could jeopardize the rollout of vaccines around the world. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration announced that they were investigating unusual clots that occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination. The FDA commissioner said she expected the pause to last a matter of days.

How Long Do Covid-19 Vaccines Provide Immunity?

The Wall Street Journal - Subscription required

How long does protection from Covid vaccines last? It's a question that's becoming more important as some of the first people to be vaccinated approach four months post-inoculation. The short answer is: We don't fully know yet. But more data is coming in that provides clues. Here's what we know so far.

More women than men are getting vaccines

Modern Healthcare - Subscription required

More women than men are getting covid vaccines, even as more men are dying of the disease. KHN examined vaccination dashboards for all 50 states and the District of Columbia in early April and found that each of the 38 that listed gender breakdowns showed more women had received shots

than men. Public health experts cited many reasons for the difference, including that women make up three-quarters of the workforce in health care and education, sectors prioritized for initial vaccines.

U.K. Strain Doesn't Result in More Severe Covid-19 Among Hospitalized Patients, Study Finds

The Wall Street Journal - Subscription required

The coronavirus variant first identified in the U.K. spreads more easily than older strains but doesn't lead to more severe disease among hospitalized patients, a new study found. People infected late last year with the variant, known as B.1.1.7, had more virus in their bodies than patients infected with older strains, a sign the newer variant is more infectious, according to the study published online Monday by the medical journal the Lancet Infectious Diseases. But the patients hospitalized with B.1.1.7 didn't die at higher rates or have worse outcomes overall.

A Mystery Under Study: How, Why And When COVID Vaccines Aren't Fully Protective

National Public Radio

So far, more than 74 million people have gotten fully vaccinated in the United States. It's unclear how many have later gotten infected with the coronavirus anyway. But Michigan, Washington and other states have reported hundreds of cases. Most people have gotten only mildly ill, but some have gotten very sick. Some have even died. Still, at a recent White House briefing, Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health noted that such cases of lapses in full protection appear to be very rare. And the deaths seem to be happening primarily among frail elderly people who have other health problems.

Regeneron says antibody cocktail prevented Covid when given as simple injection, not an IV

STAT

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals said Monday that a single administration of its monoclonal antibody cocktail reduced the risk that volunteers exposed to Covid-19 would develop the disease by 81%. The study enrolled 1,500 healthy volunteers, each of whom shared a home with someone who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, and randomized them to receive a single dose of its antibody treatment, given subcutaneously as four shots, or placebo. After 29 days, 11 patients in the treatment group developed Covid-19 compared to 59 on placebo. And for the subjects who got Covid-19 despite treatment, their symptoms resolved after one week, compared to three weeks for those on placebo.



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