

What Has Changed Since Last Update

- **The state announced that the first two State Community Vaccination Sites will open today at the Broadmoor World Arena in Colorado Springs and at the Grand Junction Convention Center.** The Colorado Springs drive-through location will operate through a partnership with Centura Health and is expected to administer 2,000 doses each day. That number will expand to 6,000 vaccinations per day once the state's vaccine supply increases. The other four state vaccination sites are expected to open in the coming days.
- **HHS issued an amendment to the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act to add additional categories of qualified people authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer COVID-19 vaccines,** including dentists, EMTs, midwives, physician assistants, podiatrists, respiratory therapists and veterinarians.
- **CDPHE announced that it has launched an updated Spanish COVID-19 website** that mirrors the content available on covid19.colorado.gov.

Things to Know

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a **National Emphasis Program** related to COVID-19 enforcement that expands upon OSHA's current enforcement efforts by targeting specific high-hazard industries or activities where the risk of workers contracting COVID-19 is substantial. The agency also updated its **Interim Enforcement Response Plan for COVID-19** to conform to the priorities in the National Emphasis Program.
- The FDA issued an **emergency use authorization** for Propofol-Lipuro 1 percent injectable emulsion to maintain sedation via continuous infusion in patients over age 16 who require mechanical ventilation in an intensive care unit setting during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Providers should consult the **fact sheet** before administering the drug because its formulation is different from FDA-approved propofol drugs, currently in shortage.
- Moderna **announced the administration of first COVID-19 vaccine doses to participants between the ages of six months and 12 years old as part of a phase 2/3 clinical trial.** The trial will investigate the vaccine's effectiveness and safety in 6,750 healthy pediatric participants. For this study, Moderna will investigate two dosing levels for those ages two to 12, and three dosing levels for those aged six months to two years old.
- As of March 14, **more than 1,000 Colorado providers have administered 2,045,085 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 1,229,623 people with first doses and 754,123 people who are fully immunized.

Upcoming Webinars/Calls

- 3-4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 17 - COVID-19 Conversations: Variants and Vaccines. [Register here.](#)
- Noon – 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 24 - It's OK Not to Be OK: Physician Burnout and Mental Health. [Register here.](#)

- April 13-15: ASPR 2021 Virtual Preparedness Summit. [Register here.](#)

COVID Resources

[CDPHE COVID-19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

COVID Coverage

Colorado's COVID-19 cases have reached 'high plateau,' state health officials say

KUSA-TV (Denver)

COVID-19 hospitalizations in Colorado have increased slightly over the past few days, while overall case numbers have reached what state health officials on Tuesday called a "high plateau." The uptick in hospitalizations wasn't alarming, but officials were worried about the trend, Gov. Jared Polis said at his briefing Tuesday at the Governor's Residence. He also said that COVID testing was down because of the weekend snowstorm, and therefore the number of new cases being detected was down, as well.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations In Colorado Jump Up Again As Experts Warn 'We Aren't Out of the Woods Yet'

Colorado Public Radio

While Colorado has moved beyond the winter COVID-19 crisis, cases and positive test numbers have stubbornly resisted returning to summer levels, and now hospitalizations are showing worrying signs of rising again. State hospitalization data showed the number of patients hospitalized with confirmed cases of COVID-19 rose by 45 between March 15, and the day before — a 16 percent jump from 283 to 328, the biggest spike since late November. "It's not time to party like 2019," said Dr. Jon Samet, an epidemiologist and the dean at Colorado's School of Public Health.

COVID cases rising again in Pitkin County with looser restrictions

The Aspen Times

County public health and employees of Aspen Valley Hospital are trying to counteract some of the hesitancy among some residents — including local teachers — to getting vaccinated, he said. “Unfortunately, some people still choose to get their information from social media,” Peacock said. “We’re trying to fight against that hesitancy.”

Centura Health launches drive-up vaccination clinics

The Gazette (Colorado Springs)

Centura Health is launching a drive-up coronavirus vaccination clinic Wednesday at the Broadmoor World Arena that will be open four days a week. Health care workers expect to provide 2,000 Moderna vaccines on the first day of the clinic that will continue to serve residents from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Monday, according to a news release. The clinic can provide up to 6,000 vaccinations daily, Centura spokeswoman Andrea Sinclair said.

Vaccine eligibility expands Friday; over 5,000 more Routt residents will become eligible

Steamboat Pilot & Today

Lindsey Reznicek, spokesperson for UCHHealth Yampa Valley Medical Center, said in an email that as it gets closer to the end of vaccine phases, people do become harder to find and not all of the hospital’s clinics will be booked solid. That is expected to change with the large expansion of eligibility Friday. As of Tuesday afternoon, Reznicek said the hospital had not received any more vaccines this week, but it has first- and second-dose clinics scheduled both this week and next.

Kids will be the last to be vaccinated. When will it be safe to go on family vacations?

NBC News

That doesn’t mean all travel has to be forbidden, said Dr. Sean O’Leary, vice chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Committee on Infectious Diseases and a professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Children’s Hospital Colorado. “It’s really a personal decision, and depends on lots of different factors. Does the child have underlying health issues that may put them at higher risk?” he said, referring to conditions such as diabetes, obesity, cystic fibrosis and asthma.

After weeks of declining cases, echoes of hot spots emerge in Upper Midwest, New York City area

The Washington Post - Subscription required

After weeks of declining coronavirus deaths and hospitalizations, new hot spots of infection have emerged, and disease experts warn that the spread of a more dangerous variant and a too-rapid rush to return to normal life could prolong the historic health emergency. Caseloads are down nationally and tens of millions of people are fully loaded with antibodies to the virus, with more than 2 million people getting doses of vaccine every day. But the virus continues to pose a real and present threat, with about 55,000 new infections daily.

CMS boosts reimbursement for administering COVID-19 vaccinations

Modern Healthcare - Subscription required

The Biden administration on Monday increased how much Medicare pays providers to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to encourage them to vaccinate more people, hire additional staff and do more patient outreach and education. CMS boosted the average payment for COVID-19

immunizations from \$28 to \$40 for single-dose vaccines and \$45 to \$80 for two-dose vaccines. But the amount each provider receives varies depending on what type of entity carries out the immunization and where it's located, according to the agency. The changes take effect immediately.

Can Vaccination and Infection Rates Add Up to Reach Covid Herd Immunity?

Kaiser Health News

A recent analysis by the Wall Street research firm Fundstrat Global Advisors fueled this idea, suggesting as many as nine states were already reaching the coveted "herd immunity" status as of March 7, signaling that a return to normal was close at hand. "Presumed 'herd immunity' is 'the combined value of infections + vaccinations as % population > 60%,'" noted a tweet by a CNBC anchor based on a more complete analysis by the firm.

Lingering symptoms go away after getting vaccinated, some COVID-19 long-haulers say

Becker's Hospital Review

Researchers have yet another area to explore when it comes to COVID-19: Why some people experiencing long-haul COVID-19 say their symptoms disappeared after getting vaccinated. Just over one day after getting her second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, Arianna Eisenberg, who experienced fatigue, insomnia, brain fog and muscle pain for eight months, said her lingering symptoms were gone.

Florida mother gives birth to first-known baby with COVID antibodies, doctors say

FOX News

A Florida mother who received one dose of the coronavirus vaccine while pregnant has passed antibodies to her newborn, doctors say. Her child is believed to be the first baby known to be born with COVID-19 antibodies, according to reports. "To our knowledge, this was the first in the world that was reported of a baby being born with antibodies after a vaccination," pediatrician Paul Gilbert told Tequesta's WPBF.

People with immune issues – at 'high risk' for COVID-19 – remain hesitant about vaccination. Here's what experts say

USA TODAY

None of the large-scale vaccine trials included people who are immunocompromised, though every indication is that vaccines are safe in this group. Organizations representing experts in cancer, organ transplantation and autoimmune diseases all support vaccination for their patients. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Wednesday that there are still questions about vaccines and the immunocompromised.

Moderna begins testing COVID vaccine on kids aged 6 months to 11 years

Axios

Moderna announced Tuesday that it has begun testing its coronavirus vaccine on children ages six months to less than 12 years in a Phase 2/3 trial beginning in the U.S. and Canada. It's an important step in expanding the vaccine rollout beyond adults, who are at higher risk of severe disease and have been a focus of inoculation campaigns around the world thus far.

FDA opens door to widespread at-home Covid-19 tests

Politico

The Food and Drug Administration will allow some developers of Covid-19 tests to market their products for regular at-home use without first studying how well the tests perform in people without symptoms. The agency's announcement Tuesday is aimed at making it easier to screen Americans returning to school and work, senior FDA regulators said.



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