

What Has Changed Since Last Update

- **Governor Polis announced this morning that Colorado will open availability to the COVID-19 vaccine to all adults over the age of 16 starting Friday, April 2.**
- **CMS announced the immediate resumption of survey activities for all complaints.** On Jan. 20, CMS issued guidance limiting hospital surveys for all complaints other than Immediate Jeopardy complaints. The suspension period lasted for 30 days and was extended once, keeping the suspension in place through March 22. In the newly released guidance, CMS states that it is not extending the survey suspension beyond the March 22 date.
- **FEMA said that beginning in April it will provide financial assistance for funerals resulting from COVID-19-related deaths. FEMA will provide up to \$9,000 per funeral for costs incurred after Jan. 20, 2020.** To be eligible, FEMA said that the COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the U.S.; an [official death certificate](#) must be provided; and the application must include funeral expense documents, including the deceased person's name and costs. FEMA said it will soon establish a dedicated 1.800 number to help individuals who apply.

Things to Know

- **CDPHE released results from a vaccine opinion survey that shows 88 percent of Coloradans indicate they would possibly be vaccinated**, which is up from 66 percent who answered that way in a similar poll in September. Only 8 percent of Coloradans said they would get it only if the vaccine was required, and 12 percent said they would definitely not get it (including those who are medically unable to do so).
- **The American Hospital Association released a one-page infographic detailing the storage requirements for each of the three vaccines** (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) currently approved for emergency use. The information aims to aid front-line health care workers who continue to step up and take on the responsibility of ensuring safe and effective vaccine administration to all individuals.
- **As of March 27, more than 1,160 Colorado providers have administered 2,444,255 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 1,584,648 people with first doses and 962,363 people who are fully immunized. **Percent positivity is increasing**, with the three-day average increasing to 3.97 percent. **Cases are also increasing**, with 957 new cases yesterday. The seven-day moving average of cases increased as well.

Upcoming Webinars/Calls

- 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 30: AHA – How Innovative Partnerships Accelerate COVID-19 Vaccinations. [Register here.](#)
- 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 30: Baldrige Foundation – Health Care Cybersecurity in a Post-Pandemic World. [Register here.](#)
- April 13-15: ASPR 2021 Virtual Preparedness Summit. [Register here.](#)



COVID Resources

[CDPHE COVID-19](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

COVID Coverage

[All Coloradans 16 And Older Will Be Eligible For A COVID-19 Vaccine Beginning April 2](#)

Colorado Public Radio

Governor Jared Polis said Monday the state will fully open up vaccinations to everyone older than 16 by April 2, about two weeks sooner than he last predicted. "We will be starting vaccines for the general public, starting this Friday," Polis said at a morning news conference. "This is a really important step that Colorado will be taking. We're now reaching this wide level of vaccine distribution." "There will probably be a mad rush at first (to get the shots) at first, which will be difficult to meet," said Dr. Mark Johnson, the chief medical officer for Jefferson County's public health department.

[Colorado health care workers grapple with burnout, trauma as pandemic stretches into a second year](#)

The Denver Post - Subscription required

Kimberly Alderfer remembers the first time she entered a coronavirus patient's room last spring, the fear she had that she too would end up hooked to a ventilator and struggling to breathe, just for being there. The patient was her age, after all. But as days went by and spring turned into summer, Alderfer's fear transformed into exhaustion after months on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. "You try to protect yourself by not forming as much of an emotional connection because it's very likely that they will not do well," said Alderfer, a cardiac ICU nurse at UCHHealth's University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora.

[In the Denver Health emergency department, patients and caregivers are scarred by a brutal year](#)

The Colorado Sun

This past year has been brutal across the medical profession. Surges of coronavirus patients frayed resources and emotional reserves in hospitals. The need to wear masks and other protective gear nonstop left visible bruises. Doctors and nurses talk openly about burnout. But the year has also brought another strain to the Denver Health emergency department. The city is in the midst of a wave of violence, one that tracks with a nationwide trend of increasing homicide numbers. The emergency medicine doctors at Denver Health believe this is likely tied to the stress of the pandemic.

As Vaccination Enthusiasm Rises, COVID-19 Case Rate Drops In Colorado

KCNC-TV (Denver)

A new state health department survey shows there has been a significant shift in Coloradans' views of COVID-19 vaccines. That shift seems to have helped decrease the COVID-19 case rate in Colorado. In September 2020, only 66% of people said they were interested in getting the vaccine. Now, 88% of Coloradans say they will possibly be vaccinated. So far, over 900,000 people statewide have been fully vaccinated, according to state health department data.

VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System opens up COVID-19 vaccine eligibility

KDVR-TV (Denver)

The VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System has opened COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to all veterans who are enrolled in the system's services. Age and health conditions are no longer requirements to qualify. In Aurora on Sunday, the health care system hosted its first vaccine walk-in clinic for enrolled veterans. Appointments were not needed thanks to an extra supply of around 500 doses at the Aurora location, according to Dustin Senger with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. More than 130,000 Colorado veterans enrolled in VA care can now visit their VA clinic and request a COVID-19 vaccination.

Some experience 3-hour wait at Denver mass vaccination site Sunday

KUSA-TV (Denver)

Centura Health, which runs the site, told 9NEWS their partner, COVIDCheck Colorado, "was unable to secure enough staffing today to meet escalating vaccine volumes. [COVIDCheck Colorado] have adjusted their resources and are working quickly to improve wait times," said Centura Health in a statement. "Centura is committed to honoring all vaccine appoints and will not turn anyone away who scheduled a time to receive their first dose."

Coronavirus vaccines are rolling out across the world. So why are CSU scientists still working to develop new ones?

The Colorado Sun

Today, coronavirus vaccines developed in multiple countries are being put into arms across the globe. But Goodrich, the director of CSU's Infectious Disease Research Center, and others at CSU are still hard at work trying to develop as many as four new vaccines for the virus. So why continue devoting so much energy to create products that other people have already created? Because the urgency of the pandemic persists, the scientists explain.

Virus fight stalls in early hot spots New York, New Jersey

The Associated Press

A year after becoming a global epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, New York and New Jersey are back atop the list of U.S. states with the highest rates of infection. Even as the vaccination campaign

has ramped up, the number of new infections in New Jersey has crept up by 37% in a little more than a month, to about 23,600 every seven days. About 54,600 people in New York tested positive for the virus in the last week, a number that has begun to inch up recently.

White House expects 11 million more Johnson & Johnson doses by next week

Roll Call

Johnson & Johnson is projected to ship 11 million COVID-19 vaccine doses next week, the White House COVID-19 task force said Friday, which would ensure the company keeps its commitment of delivering 20 million vaccines before the end of March. Jeffrey Zients, the White House coronavirus coordinator, said during a briefing that Moderna and Pfizer, the manufacturers of the two other authorized vaccines, also appear on track to meet their first quarter targets. He estimated that half of the states would open eligibility to all adults by mid-April.

Covid-19 Shots for Children Hold Key to Herd Immunity

The Wall Street Journal - Subscription required

Countries are racing to immunize adults against Covid-19 and move toward a more normal future. To achieve the vaccination rates that health authorities are aiming for, the shots must eventually reach the arms of children and teenagers, too. Children aren't going to be vaccinated for several months at least, however, because drugmakers are still testing shots in younger ages.

No 'consistent rationale': Why vaccinations are open to all in some states and not others

USA TODAY

When Alaska led the nation in offering COVID-19 vaccinations to all adults earlier this month, officials could point to the state's vaccination pace – the best in the country. But as a growing number of states have removed eligibility requirements for getting vaccinated, it's become less clear why some states are acting faster than others. Mississippi, which eliminated requirements in mid-March, ranks near the bottom in the share of adult residents who have been vaccinated.

Biden Administration Plans Localized Approach to Promote Covid-19 Vaccine

The Wall Street Journal - Subscription required

The Biden administration's new campaign promoting Covid-19 vaccination will emphasize working with community groups and others to target specific populations that are skeptical of the vaccine, senior administration officials said. Much of the overall messaging budget will be spent on such localized outreach, with a lesser portion to be spent on ads for television, digital, print and radio.

Pregnant women 'didn't have the data' – until now: COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, even for babies, study shows

USA TODAY

COVID-19 vaccines are extremely effective at protecting pregnant women and likely provide protection for their babies as well, according to a new study. The research, published Thursday in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, examined 131 vaccine recipients, including 84 who were pregnant, 31 who were breastfeeding and 16 who weren't pregnant as a control group.



Colorado Hospital Association | [7335 E Orchard Rd](#)
[Greenwood Village, CO 80111-2582](#)

[Update Email Preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe](#)

