

Things to Do

- As the state's vaccine rollout continues, CHA understands that hospitals and health systems will have questions and may need additional information. For general questions and help, contact Lyle Moore, CHA director of emergency preparedness, at lyle.moore@cha.com. **Contact the state at cdphe_covidvax@state.co.us for questions or more information about vaccine inventory, ordering, handling, and more:**
 - Ordering [vaccination cards](#)
 - Enrolling as a COVID-19 provider
 - Ordering additional supplies to administer a 6th and 11th dose of vaccine
 - Inventory access
 - Vaccine ordering for enrolled providers
 - Triage for allocation and ordering concerns
 - Storage and handling of vaccine
 - Transfer guidance or transfer follow up from a request
 - How to adjust for an 11th or 6th dose in Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS)

What Has Changed Since Last Update

- **The Senate Approved a \$1.9 Trillion COVID-19 Relief Reconciliation Bill** with provisions affecting hospitals and health systems. On Saturday, the Senate voted 50-49 to approve a [modified version](#) of the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#), a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, which includes a number of provisions that affect hospitals and health systems. The bill will now be sent back to the House for a vote on the updated version, which is anticipated to happen early this week.
- As of March 5, **the state has opened [vaccine eligibility](#) to Coloradans that fall into Phase 1B.3**, which includes people age 60 and over, essential workers in grocery and agriculture, and people age 16-59 with two or more high-risk conditions.

Things to Know

- On March 5, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [issued further guidance](#) on the **active exploitation of vulnerabilities in Microsoft Exchange Server products**. CISA encourages administrators to review the [updated alert](#) and the [Microsoft Security Update](#) and apply the necessary updates as soon as possible or disconnect vulnerable Exchange servers from the internet until the necessary patch is made available.
- As of March 3, more than **910 Colorado providers have administered 1,612,415 COVID-19 vaccine doses** for 965,945 people with first doses and 521,567 people with two doses.

- **On Friday, the state [marked](#) the one-year anniversary of the first COVID-19 case in Colorado.** “Today is a solemn day, as we think about all of the Coloradans that have lost their lives to the virus,” said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, executive director, CDPHE. “It’s also a day to be grateful for everything Coloradans have done to protect each other. We have all been in this together, enduring sacrifices, and now finally there is hope around the corner. With every person vaccinated, we all become safer and are closer to returning normal.”
- **A [study](#) from the CDC shows that mask mandates last year were associated with declining growth in daily COVID-19 cases and deaths within 20 days, while on-premises restaurant dining was associated with rising cases after 40 days and rising death rates after 60 days.** The authors said the findings “can inform public policies to reduce community spread of COVID-19.”

Upcoming Webinars/Calls

- Noon – 1 p.m., Thursday, March 11 – CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity: The Role of Telehealth in Expanding Access to Health Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Considerations for Vaccine Uptake and Monitoring for Adverse Events. [Join Zoom meeting here.](#)
- 11 a.m. – noon, Tuesday, March 16 – Health Management Associates: Improving COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence in Underserved Populations. [Register here.](#)

COVID Resources

CDPHE COVID-19

CDC COVID-19

COVID Coverage

COVID-19 Variants in Colorado Up Nearly 50 Percent in a

Westword (Denver)

Most of the major metrics measured by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment were up over the past week, including cases, hospitalizations and outbreaks. Also on the rise are disease variants that are believed to spread faster than the original strain and can cause more severe effects: They're up by approximately 45 percent over a seven-day period.

South African COVID-19 variant confirmed in Colorado for first time

The Denver Post

The more-contagious COVID-19 variant first identified in South Africa has been confirmed in Colorado for the first time, with three cases detected in a Chaffee County prison that's experiencing its third coronavirus outbreak, state health officials announced Sunday night. Two Buena Vista Correctional Complex staffers and one of the prison's inmates have tested positive for the B.1.351 variant, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said.

Gov. Jared Polis extends mask mandate on one-year anniversary of Colorado's first COVID case

Colorado Politics - Subscription required

Despite several states lifting all kinds of COVID-19 restrictions, including on masks, Gov. Jared Polis stayed the course Friday, extending the state's mask mandate for another 30 days. The executive order requires Coloradans to wear face coverings in public places. Children under the age of 10 and those with medical conditions that are impeded by masks are exempt. As of Friday, 35 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico still have mask orders in effect.

COVID-19 report card: Colorado scores better on health and education, but worse economically

KMGH-TV (Denver)

Now, a year into the pandemic - we're taking a look at what worked and what didn't in the state of Colorado by going 360 and grading Colorado's COVID response. Colorado has fewer COVID-19 deaths per capita than 40 other states - with 105 deaths per 100,000 people. Doctors say that's attributable to the lockdowns and perhaps the seriousness with which Coloradans took the virus versus people in other states.

Denver unlikely to get direct COVID shipments from feds; county to begin vaccinating jail inmates

Colorado Politics

The White House appears unlikely to approve a request from Denver Mayor Michael Hancock for direct shipments of the vaccine, which Hancock proposed as a way for the city to vaccinate the homeless and other at-risk populations. This latest request came right after Gov. Jared Polis said he would not immediately grant Hancock's wish to begin vaccinating all those experiencing homelessness, which was out of step with the state's prioritization plan.

The pandemic's mental health toll on frontline staff

KOAA-TV (Colorado Springs)

"In some cases, we just couldn't help people. That takes a toll on you, and your mental well being," said Michele Shade, Director of Emergency Services at Penrose Hospital. Shade says over the last year it wasn't easy for anyone in medicine to wake up every day knowing there would be another couple thousand more COVID-19 cases.

Highlights of the \$1.9T COVID bill nearing final passage

The Associated Press

The Senate approved a sweeping pandemic relief package over Republican opposition on Saturday, moving President Joe Biden closer to a milestone political victory that would provide \$1,400 checks for most American and direct billions of dollars to schools, state and local governments, and businesses. The bill cleared by a party-line vote of 50-49 after a marathon overnight voting session and now heads back to the House for final passage, which could come early next week.

CDC releases new Covid guidelines for fully vaccinated people

NBC News

People who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 may safely gather with small groups from other households without wearing masks or physical distancing, even if those people have not yet had their shots, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday. This is the first federal public health guidance aimed at resuming some kind of normal activity for people who have received both doses of the Pfizer or the Moderna shots, or one shot of the single-dose vaccine from Johnson & Johnson.

Biden team plots the country's first national Covid testing strategy

Politico

The Biden administration is preparing to launch the first of several Covid-19 testing hubs to coordinate and oversee a \$650 million expansion of testing in K-8 schools and congregate settings like homeless shelters. The effort is the first attempt at formalizing a national testing strategy — something public-health experts have wanted for months.

U.S. hits record daily Covid vaccinations but health officials warn against loosening restrictions

CNBC

The United States administered a record number of Covid-19 vaccines over the weekend as public health officials call on state leaders to keep social distancing measures in place in order to avoid a new surge that could undermine progress in fighting the virus. More than one in five adults have now received at least one vaccine dose, while just over one in ten have received two doses, according to the CDC.

Abbott gets emergency use authorization for test that detects COVID-19, other infections

Modern Healthcare - Subscription required

Abbott said on Friday that it has received Emergency Use Authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration for a PCR-based assay that can detect and differentiate SARS-CoV-2, influenza A, influenza B, and respiratory syncytial virus. The newly authorized Alinity m Resp-4-Plex assay uses a single anterior nasal or nasopharyngeal swab sample collected by a healthcare provider or self-collected at a healthcare facility, according to Abbott.



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