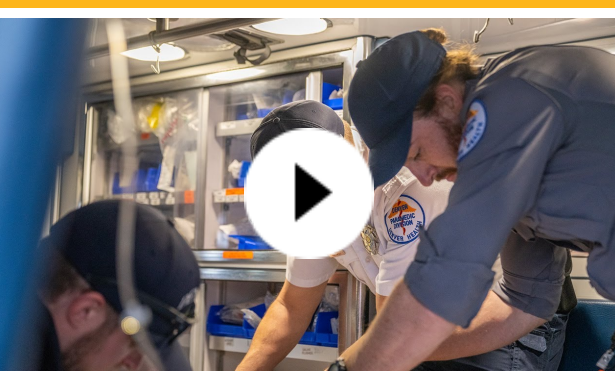


Thursday, May 25, 2023

**Celebrating EMS Week at Denver Health**

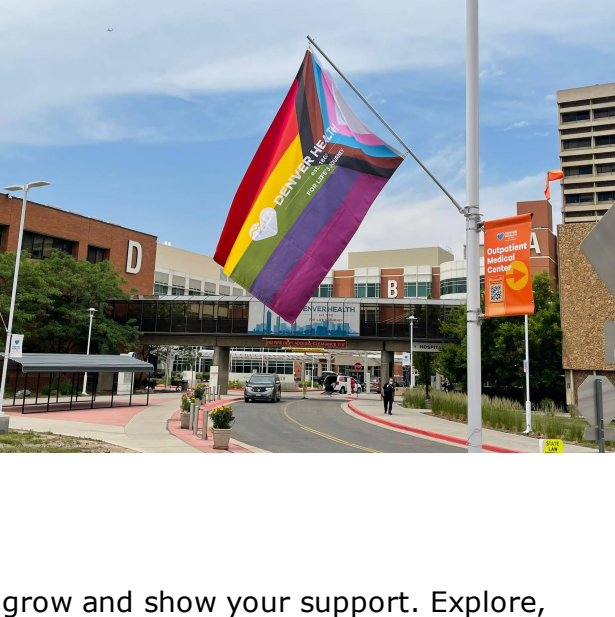
As **National EMS Week** continues, we are excited to share our latest video celebrating the outstanding and essential work our Denver Health Paramedics do! Emergency Medical Services is an incredibly tough job, but the people of the Denver Health Paramedic Division show up every day to take care of our community with compassion, excellence, integrity and professionalism.



This video, "What it Means to be a Denver Health Paramedic," created with the help of the **Denver Health Foundation**, showcases the pride our paramedics and EMTs have in their work and the training they undertake to be able to respond to more than 128,000 calls for emergency service in the Denver area every year. We are grateful for their dedication in serving the people of Denver and for their unwavering and life-saving actions in times of need.

**Join Denver Health in celebrating Pride Month**

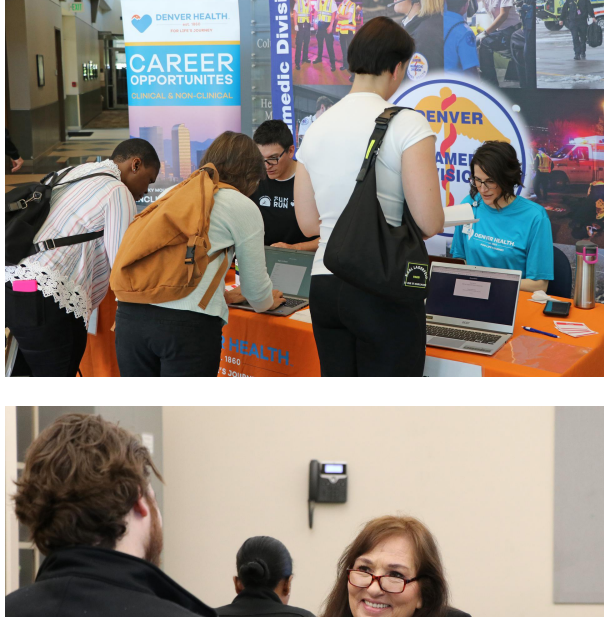
June is **LGBTQ+ Pride Month**, and we are excited to invite all employees to discover a vibrant lineup of events designed to foster inclusion, celebrate diversity and honor LGBTQ+ communities. Events include a Pride Month kick-off party on **Friday, June 2**, table events to learn about Denver Health's Employee Resource Group PRIDE, and thoughtful panel discussions, including one featuring LGBTQ+ patients, and "In Living Color: A Conversation on Race, Sexuality, and Gender." Also, join more than 100 Denver Health employees as we march in the Denver Pride Parade on **June 25** from Cheesman Park to Civic Center Park.



The Pride Month calendar is filled with opportunities to learn, grow and show your support. Explore, connect and join us as we proudly embrace the spirit of Pride. Visit the [Denver Health PRIDE Pulse website](#) or [click here](#) to see the full calendar and get involved.

**Career fair brings new hires to Denver Health**

The Human Resources team hosted an in-person career fair at the Rita Bass Trauma & EMS Institute on May 16 and interviewed 121 people. Same-day offers totaled 28, another 20 candidates are in the queue for offers, and 19 have accepted so far. Hiring leaders held interviews for enrollment specialists, food service workers, medical assistants, patient access specialists, certified nursing assistants, nursing new graduates, revenue cycle, call center and pharmacy technicians.



HR would like to extend a special thank you to all the departments who participated and employees who made referrals. Also, a big thanks to the teams in Marketing, Engineering, Food and Nutrition Services, IT and the Paramedic Division for their help in organizing the event!

**Sign up to donate blood on Friday**

Denver Health will host a **Children's Hospital Colorado** mobile blood drive from **8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Friday, May 26**, on the south side of the Rita Bass Trauma & EMS Institute. Blood donation doesn't cost anything and requires little time. It does, however, make a big difference. Your donation will help give the patients at Denver Health and Children's Colorado a better chance for a healthy life. Appointments are filling up fast, so [click here](#) to make yours now.



**DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT**

**Bariatric Surgery Center team works to help more patients in 2023**

The **Denver Health Bariatric Surgery Center** is off to a strong start in 2023, following the recent **reaccreditation of its adult surgery program and accreditation of its adolescent surgery program**, making Denver Health the only Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP)-certified hospital in the City and County of Denver for both adolescents and adults.



The Surgery Center offers both **Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass** and **Sleeve Gastrectomy** for adults and adolescents age 16 and up. In 2022, the team performed more than 150 weight-loss surgeries and plans to continue the growth of the program in 2023 with the addition of **Sany Thomas, MBBCH**, our newest bariatric surgeon.

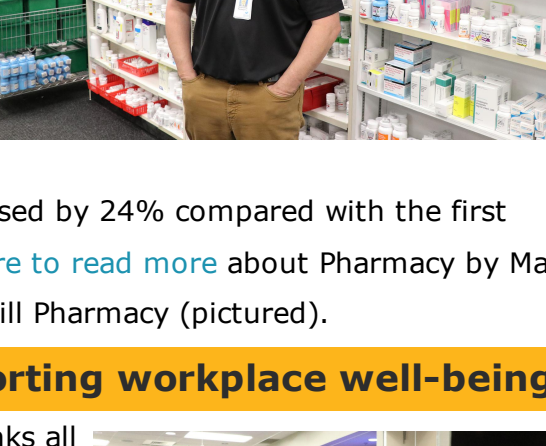


The adolescent program plans for the first surgeries later this year. Led by Denver Health Bariatric Surgery Center Director

**Alex Morton, MD**, (pictured above with a patient) and Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Center Director **Ann Kulogowski, MD**, the Bariatric Surgery Center features an integrated care team of bariatric-educated staff to help patients before and after surgery. Learn more about our team of surgeons, clinicians, psychologists, registered dietitians and administrative support on the Center's [team webpage](#). Referrals from Denver Health providers are encouraged through EPIC as the department has plenty of access. Patients can contact the Bariatric Surgery Center at **303-602-1756**.

**Denver Health's Pharmacy by Mail growing on patients, providers**

As part of an ongoing series featuring the incredible staff and various departments at Denver Health, this week we're spotlighting the **Central Fill Pharmacy team**, which has kept up with exploding demand for mail-order prescriptions, also called Pharmacy by Mail. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, less than 2% of prescriptions at Denver Health were sent to patients by mail. Today, just over three years later, the number is 16%.



Pharmacy by Mail volume in the first quarter of 2023 has increased by 24% compared with the first quarter of 2022, and by a whopping 732% since 2019. [Click here](#) to read more about Pharmacy by Mail and its benefits from **Warren Streck**, manager of the Central Fill Pharmacy (pictured).

**Denver Health thanks employees for supporting workplace well-being**

As we near the end of Mental Health Month, Denver Health thanks all of the employees who organized and took part in mental health activities and awareness events to help promote a culture of workplace well-being for all. Activities included a mental health calendar challenge for prizes; "Mindful Moments" sessions in the RESTORE Support Center; tabling events for mental health resources, information and swag; puppies on campus for pet therapy; an employee-taught yoga class and more.

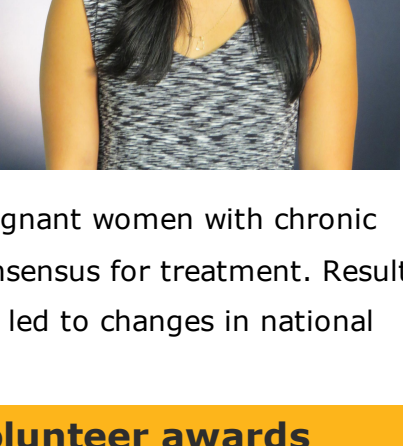


The 2023 Mental Health Month campaign focused on how surroundings affect mental health and called on individuals to "look around, look within." [Click here](#) to read more about Denver Health's commitment to mental health and for tips from Mental Health America to support your well-being. Mental health resources are also available on the bottom of the [Mental Health Month Pulse](#) website.



**Hypertension study named clinical trial of the year**

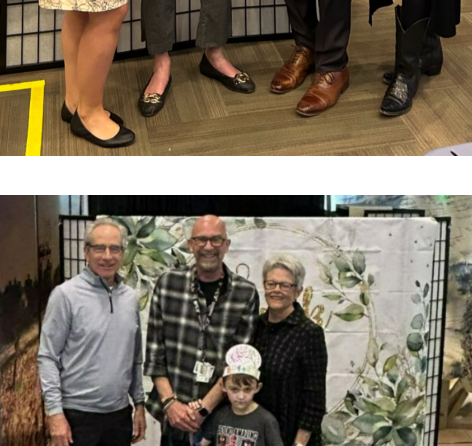
The **Chronic Hypertension and Pregnancy trial**, led by the University of Alabama at Birmingham and co-authored by Denver Health's **Nicki Nguyen, MD**, (pictured) has received the David Sackett Trial of the Year Award from the Society for Clinical Trials. The **prestigious award** is given to a clinical trial that improves the lot of humankind and provides substantial and beneficial change to health care.



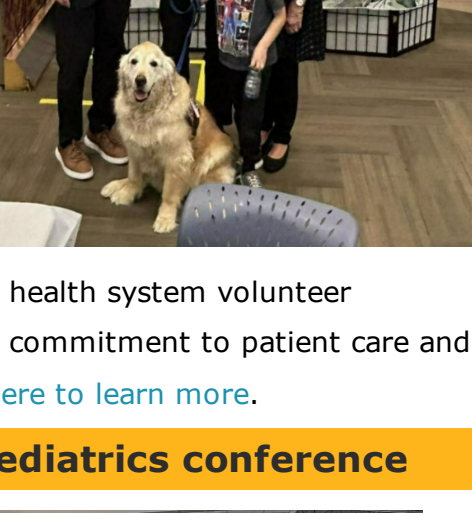
Results from the trial, which included some Denver Health patients, found treating preexisting mild chronic hypertension in pregnant women is safe for the mom and baby. Between 70% and 80% of pregnant women with chronic hypertension fall into the "mild" category, where there was no medical consensus for treatment. Results published in April 2022 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* have since led to changes in national treatment guidelines. Congratulations, Dr. Nguyen!

**Karen Goodgie and Eric Hoff honored with volunteer awards**

Denver Health celebrated the work of its invaluable volunteers by hosting the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on May 19 in the Volunteer Zone. Two awards were presented at the luncheon: Volunteer of the Year to **Karen Goodgie** and the Katie Broeren Impact Award to **Eric Hoff** and his golden retriever **Remy**.



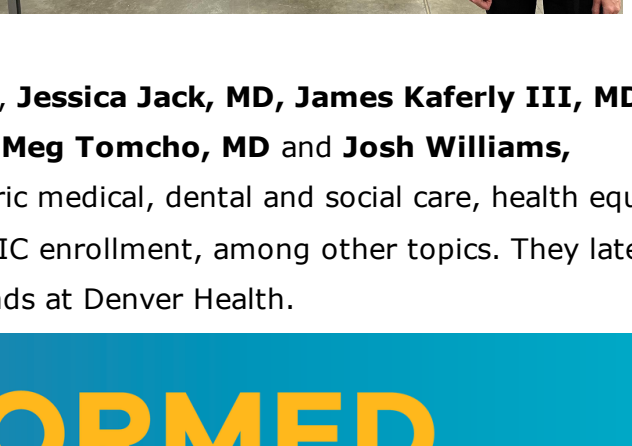
Karen (pictured) is a familiar face to many at Denver Health, greeting patients, visitors and staff as they walk through our doors. For the care she received at Denver Health, Karen wanted to give back and has been a role model for the caring, dependable and resourceful volunteers Denver Health is lucky to have. And she always makes her colleagues laugh.



Thank you to all the volunteers and to those who maintain hospital and health system volunteer programs, as well as volunteer leaders on boards and committees. Your commitment to patient care and selfless acts of kindness helps us improve patient care every day. [Click here](#) to learn more.

**Physicians share research and knowledge at pediatrics conference**

**Denver Health Pediatrics** made a strong showing at the 2023 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Washington, D.C., with presentations and workshops led by seven of our providers. The annual international gathering brings together a global audience of physician-scientists, clinicians and educators to share research, explore new ideas, build career opportunities and collaborate on future projects.



Denver Health providers **Honora Burnett, MD** (pictured), **Jessica Jack, MD**, **James Kaferly III, MD**, **Kathryn Love Osborne, MD**, **Kristine Rodriguez, MD**, **Meg Tomcho, MD** and **Josh Williams, MD**, each presented on pressing issues concerning pediatric medical, dental and social care, health equity and health disparities, school-based health centers and WIC enrollment, among other topics. They later shared their presentations with colleagues on Grand Rounds at Denver Health.

**STAY INFORMED**

**Clinics closed, hours reduced for cafés on Memorial Day**

Denver Health is reminding employees that all Family Health Centers and urgent care clinics will be closed for Memorial Day, **Monday, May 29**. [Click here](#) for a complete list of holiday closures. Food Services reminds employees that the Good Day Café, Main Street Café and OMC Café will observe holiday hours:

- **Good Day Café** - 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Mainstreet Café** and **OMC Café** - Closed

Please visit our fresh vending machines for any food and beverage needs outside of hours of operation.

**Large groups can place bulk orders for Days of Celebration BBQ**

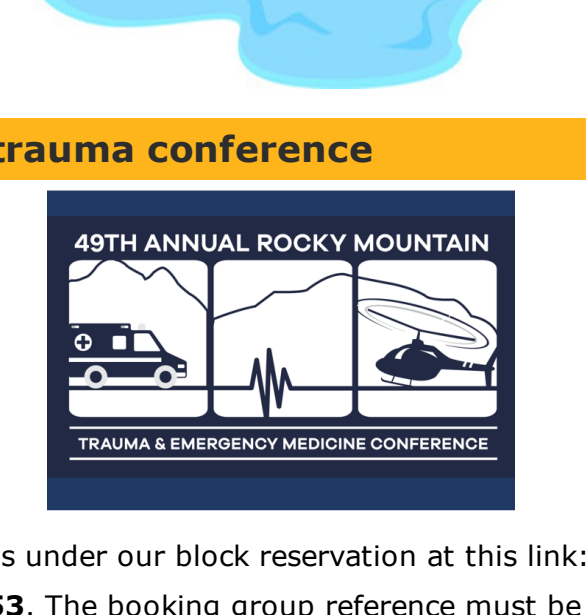
Food and Nutrition Services is offering the option to **Skip the Line** and pre-order bulk meals for your department (groups of 25 or more) for the Days of Celebration nightshift BBQ on Thursday, June 22, and the daytime BBQ on Friday, June 23. The deadline to sign up for Skip the Line is **5 p.m. Friday, June 9**.



We look forward to sharing in the excitement with you and hope you and your teams are able to celebrate with [Sign Up here](#), and make sure to read the criteria.

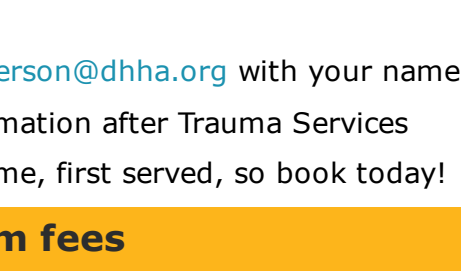
**This Water Safety Month, prepare for a safe and fun summer**

May is **National Water Safety Month**, and the **Denver Health Trauma and Injury Prevention Program** is promoting fun and safety for all ages and abilities this summer. National Water Safety Month is an awareness campaign that focuses on safe practices in, on and around the water and reducing injury while enjoying aquatic activities. Swimming and other water-related activities are increasingly popular this time of year, so it's helpful to be reminded of safe water practices. [Click here](#) to read our [water safety checklist](#).



**Free registration for RNs, EMS at trauma conference**

With less than two weeks to go before the 49th annual **Denver Health Rocky Mountain Trauma & Emergency Medicine Conference June 5-8**, the organizers are delighted to offer free conference registration to the first 50 RNs and 50 EMS staff who book rooms for two nights at the conference venue, Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge.



**Here's how:** Book a minimum of one hotel room for two nights under our block reservation at this link: [Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center](#) or call **800-525-2253**. The booking group reference must be used: "Rocky Mountain Trauma & Emergency Medicine Conference 2023."

Then send a copy of the room booking confirmation to [melissa.anderson@daha.org](mailto:melissa.anderson@daha.org) with your name, credentials and organization affiliation. You will receive email confirmation after Trauma Services registers you for your free conference pass. These spots are first come, first served, so book today!

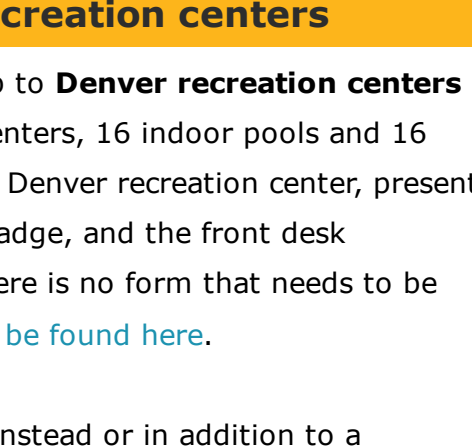
**Update on AHA RQI program fees**

Nursing Education has an important update regarding the **American Heart Association (AHA) Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI) program** fees. **Effective June 1**, there will be adjustments to the fees due to an increase in the product cost by our vendor. We want to ensure that you are well-informed about these changes to help with your budget planning. It's important to note that the in-person BLS, ACLS and PALS courses will remain available at their current fee structure. For more information about the AHA courses offered, please access the [Nursing Education](#) website.

**GET INVOLVED**

**Join the Denver Health Heart Walk team**

Join in the fun and be a part of Team Denver Health at this year's American Heart Association Heart Walk on **June 3 at Sloan's Lake**. Check-in is at 7:30 a.m., and the walk begins at 9 a.m. There is no cost to participate, but teams are encouraged to fundraise in support of the AHA's fight against heart disease and stroke. [Register for our team here](#).



**Get a discounted membership at Denver recreation centers**

Denver Health employees may purchase an annual regional membership to **Denver recreation centers** at a discounted rate of \$150. This includes access to all 30 recreation centers, 16 indoor pools and 16 outdoor pools. All you need to do is visit the front desk of your nearest Denver recreation center, present them with both a copy of your most recent paystub and employee ID badge, and the front desk representative will process your membership at the discounted rate. There is no form that needs to be completed for this membership, only verification. [More information](#) can be found here.

Interested in checking out the on-site **Denver Health Fitness Center** instead or in addition to a discounted Denver rec center membership? **NEW members** can get a complimentary trial of the Denver Health Fitness Center — located on the fourth floor of 601 Broadway — during Days of Celebration, June 19-23, courtesy of Workplace Well-being. [Registration is required at this link](#) by **June 15** to participate.

**Denver Health in the media**

**Colorado woman handmakes essential items for Newborns in Need program**  
**Drive-Thru baby shower benefits Newborns in Need** - May 20, CBS Colorado  
The **Denver Health Foundation's Newborns in Need** program is celebrating 20 years! In partnership with CBS Colorado, this year's drive-thru baby shower resulted in many essential items that were handmade. CBS Colorado featured a few stories on the event and program. One focuses on a woman who has been crocheting blankets, beanies and everything in between for years to support every baby born at Denver Health. The other story features a young mom who just delivered her baby at Denver Health and how much she appreciates receiving all the essential items. Her baby was born early, so she wasn't prepared.

**EMS educator helps make learning realistic in a cost-effective way** - May 22, CBS Colorado  
National EMS Week is an opportunity to celebrate emergency medical services staff and the work they do in our communities. In Denver alone, **Denver Health Paramedics** respond to more than 120,000 calls every year, but it would not be possible to do without proper training. **Christy Allen**, who is an educator and paramedic for the **Denver Health EMS program**, has found a way to make learning realistic in a cost-effective way.

**How to get involved in first responder work in Denver** - May 24, Fox31  
As part of National EMS Week, **Assistant Chief Paramedic Justin Harper** appeared on Denver Health's weekly Fox31 segment to discuss what it takes to be a first responder.

**Those suffering effects from wildfire smoke urged to stay indoors** - May 23, CBS Colorado  
As Denver continues to rank among the top cities for poor air quality, some people who live in Colorado are experiencing adverse effects of the wildfire smoke billowing from fires burning in Canada. "Those small particles can get lodged deep in the lungs the longer you breathe it in, so for people with asthma it may trigger asthma attacks or people with heart disease can experience problems," said **Connie Savor Price, MD**, chief medical officer at Denver Health.

**Here's how we can rebuild trust in vaccines** - May 11, Medscape  
Many parents delayed childhood vaccinations for their kids during the pandemic for a variety of reasons - they were afraid to expose their children to other sick kids, providers shifted to a telehealth model, and routine preventive care was difficult to access. "I just don't want to see an outbreak of something that we could have avoided because we were not protected enough," **Judy Shlay, MD**, associate director of the **Public Health Institute at Denver Health**, said in an interview with Medscape.

**National awareness and recognitions**

June is **LGBTQ+ Pride Month, AIDS Awareness Month, Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, Cataract Awareness Month, Men's Health Month, National Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month, National Aphasia Awareness Month, National Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month, National Migraine and Headache Awareness Month, National Scleroderma Awareness Month, National Scleroderma Awareness Month and PTSD Awareness Month**. Is there a department that you'd like us to recognize during a special week or month? Let us know in an [Employee Outreach Request form](#) and we'll spotlight them in the 411.

May   June	
May 26: Children's Hospital Colorado blood drive	June 15: Application deadline for School of Medical Laboratory Science
May 27: Walk with a Doc	June 19-23: Days of Celebration
May 29: Memorial Day	June 22: Dayshift BBQ
June 2: Pride kick-off party	June 23: Nightshift BBQ
June 2: Employee golf tournament	June 24: Walk with a Doc
June 5-8: Denver Health Rocky Mountain Trauma & Emergency Medicine Conference	

**CLICK HERE FOR A PDF VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.**

**SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE WEEKLY 411**  
Submit content for consideration in the Weekly 411 through the employee outreach request form here. Accuracy and quality matter, so please provide all material as early as possible. Your submission should detail who, what, when, where, why and how with correct spelling and explanation of acronyms. We encourage you to include photos and any links or attachments that may help to communicate your message. Content received after noon on Tuesday will be considered for the following week's edition.

