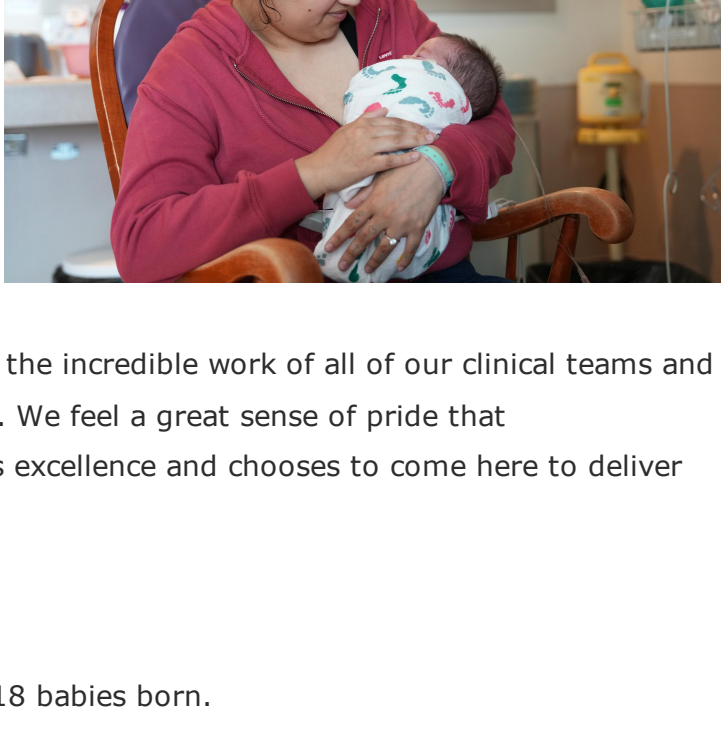


The week's most critical information delivered to your inbox.

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Obstetrics hits highest number of monthly deliveries in at least 15 years

July marked a major accomplishment for **Obstetrics**, as the teams welcomed 367 babies. This is the highest total number of deliveries in a single month since at least 2008 and could be an all-time record at Denver Health. One of them, **Koast Cantu**, pictured in the NICU today with his mother, **Geovanna Cantu**, was born 10 weeks early on July 4. They expect to leave the NICU soon and go to their Denver home.



John Curtin, MD, director of service for OB-GYN, said, "This milestone was only made possible through the incredible work of all of our clinical teams and is a testament to the world class care that we provide. We feel a great sense of pride that such a large portion of our community recognizes this excellence and chooses to come here to deliver their baby."

- Notable highlights during the record-setting month:
- July 14 was the busiest day of the month, with 18 babies born.
 - We delivered the largest baby since 2016: a whopping 13 pounds!
 - 55% of the parents live in Denver County.
 - 134 of the deliveries were to first-time parents.
 - There were 15 different preferred languages among parents.

Of course, a baby boom puts additional pressure on an often-stretched team, but OB-GYN leaders are working to address with initiatives to offload volume from the OB Screening Room to the clinic, utilizing rooms on the second floor of Pavilion C, improving nursing recruitment, increasing utilization of the backup call program and onboarding three additional attendings over the next month. These are all aimed at building a departmental structure that is better equipped to handle patient volume like the team experienced in July. And August already is shaping up to top 300 deliveries. Pictured above is a team huddle Monday in the Women's Care Clinic.

Denver Health receives Joint Commission accreditation

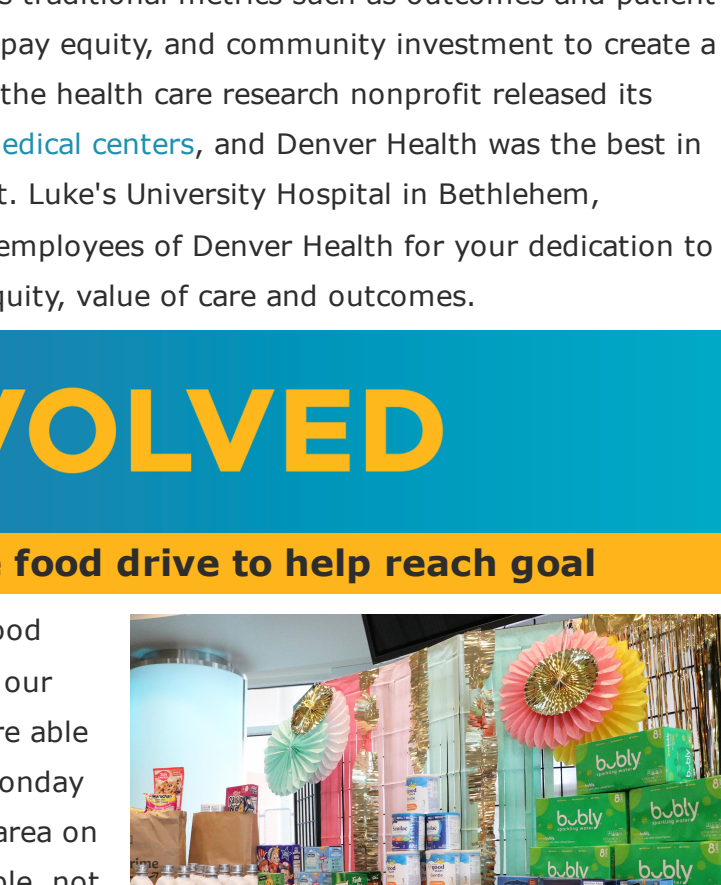
It's official! We just received our three-year certificate confirming that Denver Health's hospital, emergency department, and hospital-based clinics and services are fully accredited by the Joint Commission. Special thanks to the Patient Safety and Quality Team for their leadership preparing for and facilitating the Joint Commission's site visit last spring and for broad collaboration from every part of Denver Health during the site visit and in responding to the Joint Commission's findings. The work of consistently delivering high-quality, safe, and patient-centered care is truly a team effort and an great expression of Denver Health at its best.



Our next official survey won't be until early 2024 when the Lab undergoes its quality and safety review. Continual readiness is important to successful Joint Commission reviews so we're asking teams to sustain the work you do every day to ensure quality and safety, including our focus on environmental safety, role competencies, medication safety, properly following provider orders and care protocols, excellent documentation, time out process before procedures, and suicide prevention and care.

Dental Assistant Program celebrates first four graduates, eyes growth

The Denver Health **Dental Assistant Program** celebrated its inaugural class of four graduates at a ceremony last Friday, Aug. 4, in the Sabin classroom in Pavilion C. The graduates were **Alyssa Garcia, Keairre Giles, Leticia Miranda Garcia and Melicia Montour**. They are pictured with **Duane Mata, DDS**, director of dental services; **Franciose Rogers**, director of dental education; and dental assisting instructors **Eva Butcher** and **Brooke Torres**. The event also celebrated 20 graduates of the Community College of Denver's Administrative Dental Assistant Program.



One of the graduates, Garcia, 19, was born and raised in Denver and said she has always wanted to work in health care. After applying and being accepted to the program, she convinced her best friend, fellow graduate Montour, to apply for the program.

"I said, 'If I have to go back to school, so do you.' Not only was I able to take this journey with my best friend, I was able to complete this program on a full-ride scholarship," Garcia said. "Moving forward, I am honored to work at Denver Health. I am forever grateful for the opportunity I was given, and I recommend this program to everyone that wants to further their dental education."

The Dental Assistant Program at Denver Health includes six months of full-time training and education, with grant funding making it free for students. Dr. Mata said the team hopes to grow the program to 40 students per class. [Click here to learn more](#) about admission criteria and how to apply.

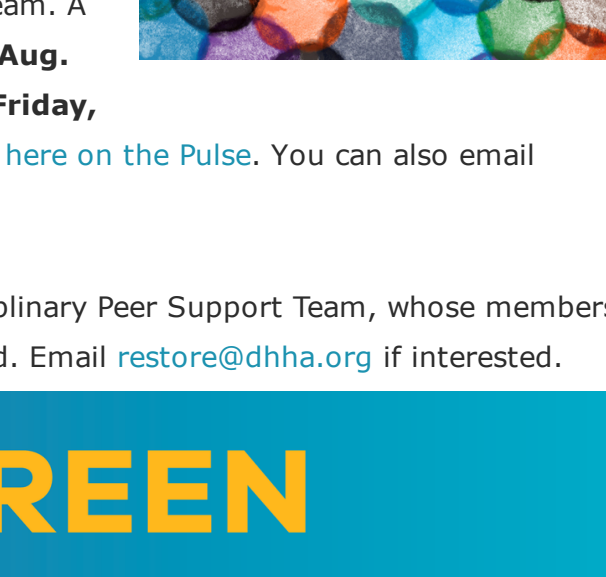
Denver Health ranked No. 2 in US among academic medical centers

The Low Institute recently ranked Denver Health among the most socially responsible hospitals in the nation for the third straight year. The Index "measures traditional metrics such as outcomes and patient safety, while adding new metrics like racial industry, pay equity, and community investment to create a holistic evaluation of social responsibility." Last week, the health care research nonprofit released its rankings for the most socially responsible academic medical centers, and Denver Health was the best in Colorado and No. 2 in America, placing behind only St. Luke's University Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A huge thanks to the more than 8,100 employees of Denver Health for your dedication to keeping our health care system a beacon for health equity, value of care and outcomes.

GET INVOLVED

Consider donating to employee food drive to help reach goal

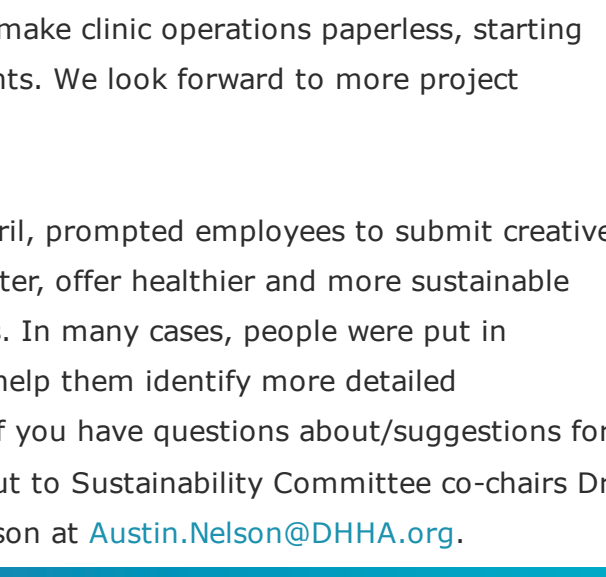
Denver Health is hosting a National Wellness Month food drive **through Aug. 18**, and we are about halfway to our goal of collecting 1,000 pounds of food. Those who are able to donate may drop off food from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Volunteer and Patient Services area on the first floor of Pavilion C. Food must be nonperishable, not require refrigeration or freezing, not be expired, not be homemade and be unopened. A drop box has been placed at the security desk at 601 Broadway to make it more convenient to participate. **Donations of gift cards to grocery stores also are accepted and appreciated.**



Donated items will be distributed to Denver Health employees during the Wellness Fair from **11 a.m.-7 p.m. Aug. 18** in the same donation area. Employees can stop by to collect up to five food items to take home. There will also be free grocery tote bags, recipies, information on community resources and swag. Email Kristin.Ellis@dhha.org with questions.

Join AIDS walk to raise money, awareness around HIV

The **Festival for Life: AIDS Walk & Run Colorado** is set for **Saturday, Aug. 26**, at Cheesman Park, and Denver Health is putting together a team for the Honorary Walk. The Colorado Health Network is hosting the festival from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the park at East Eighth Avenue and Franklin Street. The 5K run starts at 9 a.m., followed by the walk at 9:30. The festival will feature AIDS Memorial Quilt displays; a Diva Dash, a volleyball tournament; a brunch garden; free health screenings and booths from partner agencies. The event celebrates the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS and helps raise money for patients, including at Denver Health.



Staff, friends, family and patients are welcome to join the walking team, which was started by the **Public Health Institute (PHI) at Denver Health**, by clicking the "Join this team" button on [our team page](#). You may also email [Kaitlin Buck](mailto:Kaitlin.Buck@dhha.org), a senior research assistant with the PHI's Infectious Disease Clinic, at kaitlin.buck@dhha.org and request to join. The team has a fundraising goal of \$5,000, and donations are accepted on the team page.

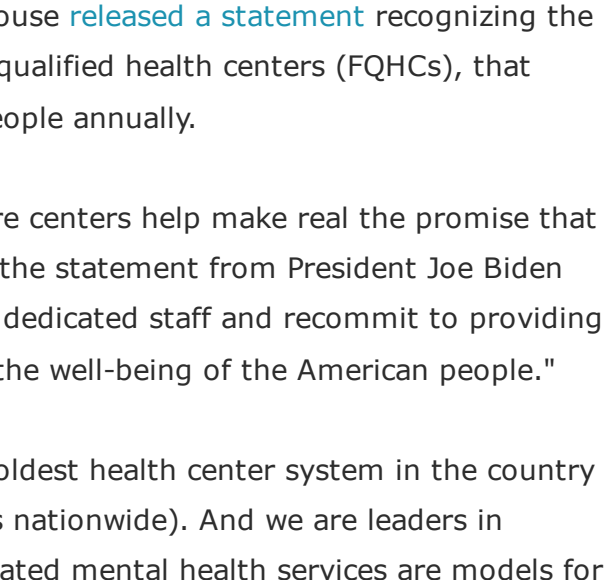
Deadline Aug. 15 to order Denver Health team jersey for Century Ride

Denver Health is organizing a team of riders for the **Sept. 23 Denver Century Ride**. The ride is an opportunity to explore neighborhood streets and metro Denver trails going to Morrison and back. Participants can choose from 25-, 50-, 80- or 100-mile courses. Upon registration, enter "DenverHealth23" at checkout for 20% off your fee. Denver Health has designed a custom jersey, which will cost about \$100. Complete [this form](#) with your jersey size and to commit to payment. You may order a Denver Health jersey even if you can't make the Century Ride. **Orders are due by Aug. 15.**



Sign up for RESTORE Group Support opportunities

Denver Health RESTORE Group Support offers virtual sessions that provide a dedicated space for employees to come together with a goal of reducing the impact of distress and to promote mutual support and connection. The next session, "Group Support: Leaders," is set for **12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16**, for Denver Health personnel who are managers and supervisors from any department or team. A session for "ACS New Managers" is set for **3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17**, and "Cumulative Distress and Burnout" is set for **1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18**. See a full calendar of sessions and sign up for them [here on the Pulse](#). You can also email restore@dhha.org and request to be registered.



RESTORE is also looking for more people to join its interdisciplinary Peer Support Team, whose members offer confidential emotional support and psychological first aid. Email restore@dhha.org if interested.

GOING GREEN

Pediatric Dental Clinic wins Employee Sustainability Challenge

Congratulations to **Kimberly Oravetz** and her colleagues in the **Pediatric Dental Clinic** who submitted a winning proposal to this year's Employee Sustainability Challenge. The \$500 award, made possible by the Denver Health Foundation, will go toward their efforts to make clinic operations paperless, starting by converting all paper consent forms to e-signature documents. We look forward to more project updates in March 2024.

The Sustainability Challenge, announced in the 411 in late April, prompted employees to submit creative ideas to improve resource stewardship, reduce waste, save water, offer healthier and more sustainable cafeteria options, and increase contact with nature on campus. In many cases, people were put in contact with appropriate leaders at Denver Health who could help them identify more detailed opportunities and barriers to putting their ideas into action. If you have questions about/suggestions for environmental sustainability at Denver Health, please reach out to Sustainability Committee co-chairs Dr. Elizabeth Gillespie Elizabeth.Gillespie@dhha.org or Austin Nelson at Austin.Nelson@DHHA.org.

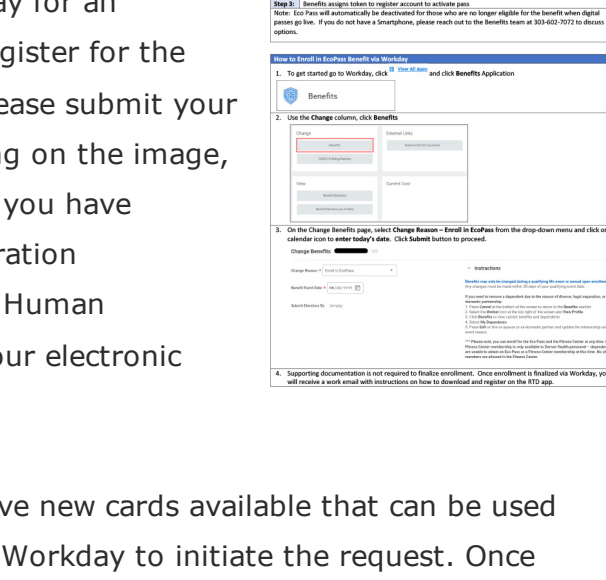
RECOGNIZING YOU

Clinics work together to improve colorectal cancer screening rates

Denver Health is taking part in the NFL and the American Cancer Society's 2023 **Crucial Catch** project, and two of our clinics already are boasting great results. The NFL and ACS offer funding to focus on improving cancer screenings in primary care sites. Denver Health chose to focus on colorectal cancer screening, since early screening plays a crucial role in detecting and preventing one of the deadliest and most prevalent cancers. Denver Health clinics were challenged to think of innovative solutions to improve colorectal cancer screening rates.



Over the first half of this year, the teams at Park Hill (pictured, top) and Federico F. Pena Southwest (pictured, bottom) family health centers showed the highest improvement in handling colorectal cancer screening kits during office visits. In the month of July both clinics were recognized with a catered lunch to celebrate their success.



National Health Center Week celebrates legacy of Denver Health

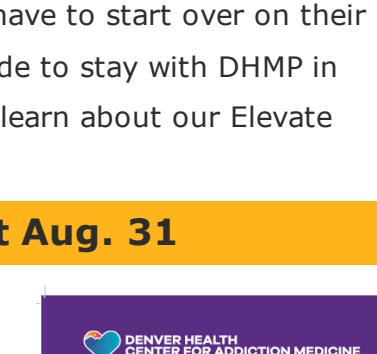
For **National Health Center Week** (Aug. 6-12), the White House released a statement recognizing the nearly 1,400 community health centers (CHCs), aka Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), that provide critical and affordable care to more than 30 million people annually.

"Spread across every State and territory, these vital health care centers help make real the promise that health care in this country should be a right, not a privilege," the statement from President Joe Biden said. "During National Health Center Week, we celebrate their dedicated staff and commit to providing the resources these vital centers need to continue protecting the well-being of the American people."

Denver Health is proud of its CHC legacy: We are the second oldest health center system in the country and the sixth largest (of 1,400 FQHCs with over 10,000 clinics nationwide). And we are leaders in innovation: Our School-based Health Centers and large integrated mental health services are models for the country. During the pandemic, we were at the forefront of providing COVID-19 treatment, testing and vaccines, and creating virtual home monitoring to keep patients out of the hospital. We have so much to be proud of and thankful for, and it all starts with our employees. Thank you for all you do every day for our patients and for each other.

Randall 'Fritz' Fritzsche inducted into cybersecurity group Hall of Fame

Enterprise Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Randall "Fritz" Fritzsche from the Department of Information Technology at Denver Health has been named to the Information Systems Security Association's (ISSA) Hall of Fame. It is the highest honor bestowed by the ISSA, an international cybersecurity association.

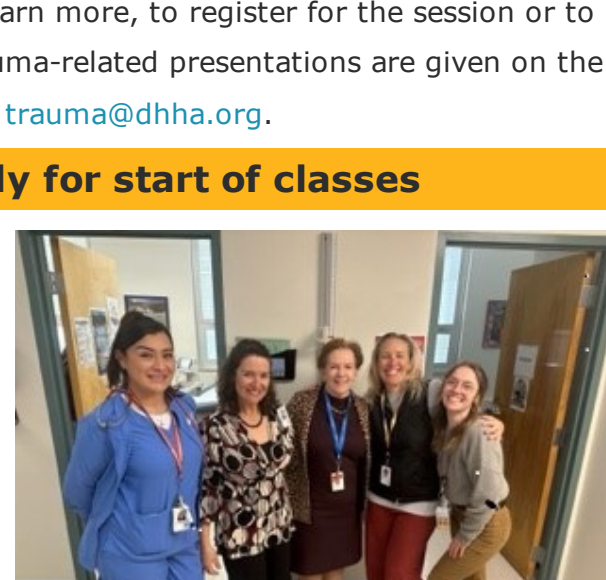


"This is such a humbling experience," Fritzsche said. "I have spent my career as a protector with a servant heart. I have also dedicated myself to giving back through teaching, speaking, writing and mentoring. My experience teaching the cybersecurity risk management course at Harvard was included in the calculus for this, as was my commitment to serving in a cyber leadership role for a safety net/Level I trauma hospital. I am so grateful that I can practice my profession for an organization that has such an amazing mission."

Fritzsche has been part of the ISSA for 20 years and is an ISSA Distinguished Fellow. Last month, he was recognized for the third straight year as one top CISOs in the U.S. by CISOs Connect.

SPARO senior director receives Operational Excellence Award

Amanda Breedren, senior director for the SPAROD Programs and Research Office at Denver Health (SPAROD), received the Operational Excellence Award at the European Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management (IEOM) last month in Portugal. Breedren is pictured at the conference holding the award, which recognizes her outstanding contributions to operations management at Denver Health and followed her being named one of the top 50 Thought Leaders in Operational Excellence by the Process Excellence

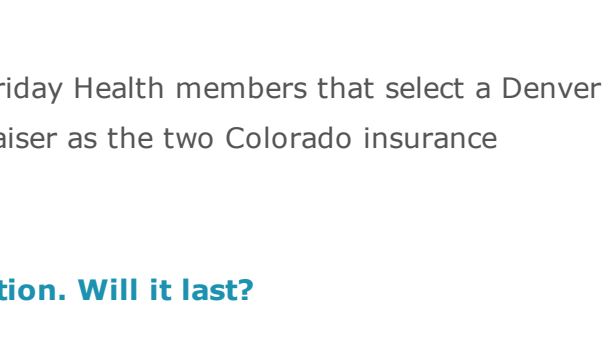


Network in June. Breedren, who has been at Denver Health for 10 years, said, "This Operational Excellence Award is a reflection of research communities' global interest in Lean research administration." Congratulations to Breedren on the awards recognizing her outstanding work at Denver Health.

STAY INFORMED

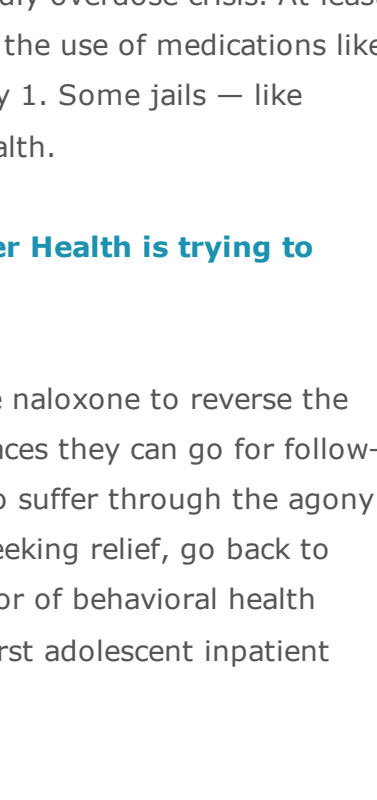
Pavilion A entrance set to reopen Friday

The broken inner and outer doors at the entrance of Pavilion A are being replaced with new ones, which are expected to be operational and back in service by Friday morning, according Denver Health's Engineering Department. There is a temporary detour through the Pavilion B entrances. Thank you for your patience while the work is completed.



RTD EcoPass going digital, requires employee sign-up in Workday

Denver Health employees need to sign-up via Workday to continue using the RTD EcoPass benefit. If you are currently registered in Workday for an EcoPass, you will receive a work email next week on how to register for the new electronic EcoPass. If you are not enrolled in Workday, please submit your request by following [instructions here](#), also available by clicking on the image, no later than Sept. 1 to ensure no disruption in service. Once you have completed the enrollment via Workday, you will receive registration instructions in your work email within two business days. The Human Resources benefits team will finalize your pass by assigning your electronic token.



Do not have a smartphone? No worries. Denver Health will have new cards available that can be used with the electronic pass system. You still need to enroll using Workday to initiate the request. Once initiated, let the benefits team know you need an updated card. Your current EcoPass will be turned off in September.

More questions? Contact the benefits team at 303-602-7072, create a Cherwell ticket or stop by Human Resources in Pavilion B from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Two new add-ins to be available in Microsoft Outlook

Two new add-in applications will appear in employees' Microsoft Outlook home screens starting next week. Using these add-ins is optional, according to Information Technology, but you are encouraged to explore them to see if they can help streamline your daily routine.

FindTime simplifies scheduling meetings by asking invitees for their preferences among proposed times you provide. This lets you choose a time that is best for the largest number of attendees, while minimizing the number of people that will be left out.

ProofPoint Security Actions in your Spams Digest block or allow external senders, so that their messages do not appear in yours. You quickly block.

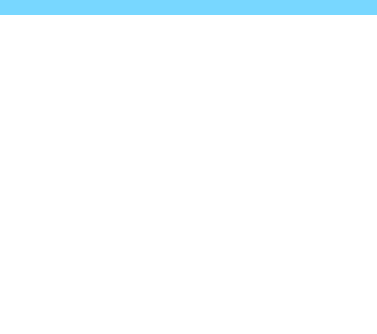
For instructions on using these tools, see the job aids here:
[FindTime: How to Create a Meeting Poll](#)
[FindTime: How to Vote on a Meeting Poll](#)
[Proofpoint Security Actions](#)

Denver Health Medical Plan welcomes Friday Health Plans members

Friday Health Plans announced last month that is exiting the health insurance market in Colorado on Aug. 31, affecting about 30,000 customers who need to find a new insurer to avoid a gap in coverage. The **Denver Health Medical Plan (DHMP)** is focused on providing affordable health insurance to the communities we serve and is ready to welcome all eligible members living in Denver, Adams, Jefferson and Arapahoe counties needing individual insurance coverage. DHMP will accept Friday enrollees' deductibles and out-of-pocket accumulators, meaning that members will not have to start over on their accumulators as of Sept. 1. Should these members enrolling in our plans decide to stay with DHMP in 2024, those accumulators will start over on Jan. 1. Affected customers can learn about our Elevate Exchange and Colorado Option plans by visiting ElevateHealthPlans.org.

CAM hosting Overdose Awareness Day event Aug. 31

Denver Health's **Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM)** invites all staff and community members to its annual Overdose Awareness Day event set for **11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 31**, in front of Pavilion D. The event will highlight a patient story, CAM's Words Matter Campaign and the introduction of the Mobile Opioid Medication Assisted Treatment (MOMAT) Unit. Giveaways and resources will be available at the event. Everyone is encouraged to wear purple to show support.



In the leadup to the event, CAM is sharing new promotional videos to share patient and staff voices. This work is made possible by the clinical teams providing inclusive and compassionate care to patients every day. Email CAM@dhha.org with any questions.

Join next Trauma Lecture Series session on Aug. 16

Gene Moore, MD, will be presenting at the next Trauma Lecture Series session, "Pathophysiology of Trauma Induced Coagulopathy: Rationale for Whole Blood Resuscitation," set for noon Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the OR Conference Room (Room 3215) or via Webex. The free trauma continuing education is open for all levels of health care professionals. [Click here](#) to learn more, to register for the session or to watch archived lectures going back years. These hourlong trauma-related presentations are given on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, email trauma@dhha.org.

School-based Health Centers ready for start of classes

Denver Health **Pediatric-based Public Schools**, aka our School-based Health Centers (SBHCs), are open and ready to start seeing patients. This is a vital resource for our Denver community and is available to all Denver Public Schools (DPS) students and siblings. Have a child in DPS? Once you've signed a [consent for treatment](#), your child can be seen at any location. It's easy to schedule an appointment at our school clinics; just call 303-602-8958, text the "clinic" to 51731, or schedule through MyChart. Same-day or next-day appointments are usually available.

Denver Health CEO Donna Lynne (pictured, center) recently visited the school-based clinic at John F. Kennedy High School. During the 2022-23 school year, SBHCs provided more than 57,000 visits from over 15,000 unique patients. We are excited to see even more patients during the 2023-24 school year. We have 19 clinic locations, as well as 50 virtual care sites, through a partnership with DPS schools that do not have a clinic on-site.

Denver Health in the media

Outstanding Women in Business winner: Jessica Zofnass Barclay
Aug. 4, Denver Business Journal
Jessica Barclay experienced a sudden medical emergency in 2021. Her experience led her to become a supporter through the Denver Health Foundation. "Paramedics, nurses and surgeons at Denver Health hospital worked together to save my life. I miraculously survived the acute traumatic brain injury with no lasting brain damage, thanks to the outstanding care I received at Denver Health." Read more about her award here.

Denver Health agrees to honor deductibles from Friday Health members
Aug. 4, Longmont Leader
Denver Health has agreed to honor these accumulators for Friday Health members that select a Denver Health plan for the remainder of 2023. Denver Health joins Kaiser as the two Colorado insurance companies honoring these accumulators for Friday members.

Colorado jails are changing how they treat opioid addiction. Will it last?
Aug. 6, Denver Post
All jails in Colorado are now required to offer the gold-standard opioid treatment to inmates who need it, expanding a proven intervention to one of the front lines of the state's deadly overdose crisis. At least half of Colorado's jails were not offering full medication-assisted treatment — the use of medications like buprenorphine plus counseling — before a statutory requirement kicked in on July 1. Some jails — like Denver — have offered the treatment for years in partnership with Denver Health.

Teens with addiction are often left to detox without medication. Denver Health is trying to change that.
Aug. 7, The Colorado Sun
Teens who land in emergency rooms with an opioid overdose generally receive naloxone to reverse the effects of dangerous drugs in their system and are sent home with a list of places they can go for follow-up care. But too often, those teens never seek additional help. They are left to suffer through the agony of withdrawal with no medications to ease their cravings. As a result, many, seeking relief, go back to opioids, often with tragic consequences. **Dr. Christian Thurstone**, the director of behavioral health services, and his team have now opened what he believes to be the nation's first adolescent inpatient detox unit.

Rule changes let more people donate blood
Aug. 8, 9News
A new federal policy went into effect at some blood donation centers this week that allows more gay and bisexual men to donate blood. LGBTQ+ advocates and some doctors said it's long overdue, which includes **Dr. Sarah Rowan** an infectious disease physician at Denver Health.

Colorado hospitals try to put end to increasing attacks on staff
Aug. 8, 9News
Managing nurses on the oncology floor at Denver Health attacks **Marly Johnson** busy -- but it's only getting harder to keep those nurses safe from near-daily attacks perpetrated by the patients they're charged with helping. Patients and visitors attacking hospital staff is a growing epidemic at Denver Health and other hospital systems across the metro area.

Denver Health part of project to get data from 1M people
Aug. 9, Fox31
Denver Health is taking part in the ambitious All of Us research project to track health data for more than 1 million people. Talya Cunningham speaks with the hospital's director of research, **Rachel Everhart**.

Altitude Versus Humidity: Which Is Harder?
Aug. 9, Trailrunner
Dr. Spencer Tomberg from the Denver Health Medical Center focuses on emergency and sports medicine. He works with athletes firsthand in the hospital's orthopedic offices, while also working on several racing events. "The two things that change quite a bit (at altitude) are the amount of oxygen in the air and the amount of oxygen," he says. "It's actually not that there's a lower percentage of oxygen in the air. There's just so much less pressure that there are less molecules in general, so it's hard to pull the oxygen into your body from there."

August | September | October

- Aug. 14-18:** All of Us Journey at Denver Health
- Aug. 15:** Deadline to order Century Ride jersey
- Aug. 16:** RESTORE Group Support
- Aug. 16:** Trauma Lecture Series
- Aug. 17:** RESTORE Group Support
- Aug. 18:** RESTORE Group Support
- Aug. 17:** Fidelity web workshop
- Aug. 18:** Wellness Month food drive ends
- Aug. 18:** Employee Wellness Fair
- Aug. 26:** AIDS Walk & Run Colorado
- Aug. 31:** Overdose Awareness Day
- Sept. 7:** Women walk sign-up deadline for DH T-shirt
- Sept. 23:** Denver Century Ride
- Oct. 8:** Komen More Than Pink Walk

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 punctuation of names. 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.

