

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Denver Health honors lives lost on Overdose Awareness Day

Denver Health hosted an International Overdose Awareness Day program today featuring speakers from the Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM) and people with lived addiction-related experience to bring awareness to preventable overdoses and honor the lives lost to overdose in 2022, which included 1,799 people in Colorado. Speakers at the event included **CEO Donna Lynne**; **Judy Schlay**, medical director for CAM; **John Mills**, CAM public health planner; **Walter Boyd**, CAM Community Advisory Committee member; **Hannan Braun**, MD, internal medicine and addiction medicine physician; and **Josh Blum**, MD, medical director of Denver Health's opioid treatment program.



During the event, Dr. Braun asked colleagues to join a movement to use less stigmatizing language in patient notes and electronic health records (such as "substance use" instead of "drug abuse"). Dr. Blum took the opportunity to introduce Denver Health's new mobile methadone dispensary that will make accessing methadone doses and staying connected to primary health care easier for some patients. The Mobile Opioid Medication Assisted Treatment, or MOMAT, unit is the first of its kind in Colorado and expects to begin serving patients later this year.

[Click here to view a slideshow](#) with more photos from today's event.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

CEO Donna Lynne, senior leaders to host October town halls

Please join Denver Health **CEO Donna Lynne** and the senior leadership team for a series of town halls in October. Engage with Donna and executive leadership on the direction of the 2024-26 Strategic Plan and receive updates on Denver Health finances, workplace safety and more. Most sessions have an in-person option, but Webex will be available for every session. The first town hall is open to all staff from **1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4**, and is virtual only. Webex meeting links for all the sessions will be included in upcoming 411s and on the Pulse soon.



GET INVOLVED

Emergency Management team offers tips to stay prepared

This September, celebrate National Preparedness Month by preparing for emergencies at home and at work. The Denver Health Emergency Management team has updated the emergency preparedness badges to outline the "all-hazards approach" to response and provide staff with a tool for remembering how to initiate action during any emergency.



New employees will receive the updated badge from the badging office, and department leadership can contact emergencymanagement@dhha.org to request new badges for their teams. Leaders may also request all-hazards training for their teams by completing this [intake request form](#). All employees should take a moment to visit the [Emergency Management Pulse page](#) to view a digital copy of the Red Book, the Rave enrollment job aid to ensure they receive RAVE emergency alerts, Emergency Management huddle sheets in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and other pertinent announcements from Emergency Management. Also, visit ready.gov for instructions on how to build a preparedness kit. Finally, employees that are signed up to receive Rave alerts will be entered into a raffle to win a weather radio and flashlight, so make sure your contact information is up to date on Workday!

DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

National Childhood Obesity Month and bariatric surgery for adolescents

September is National Childhood Obesity Month, a time to recognize this serious health problem in our country and its high prevalence among children and adolescents. The latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that nearly 20% of children and adolescents ages 2-19 are considered obese, with the highest rate (22%) among 12- to 19-year-olds, with higher rates for Hispanic children (26%) and Black children (25%). Obesity that starts as a teenager can lead to lifelong health consequences, including high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol.

Bariatric surgery can be an effective treatment for many weight-related health issues, even when medical and behavioral weight loss programs have failed. The Denver Health Bariatric Surgery Center is now accepting referrals through Epic for adolescent and adult patients (ages 16-65). [Click here for a huddle sheet on how to refer patients to the department.](#)

"Bariatric surgery has the opportunity to impact weight loss and reduce health risks for adolescents ages 16-20, both now and in the future, and it is also a great way for them to start their young adult lives as healthy as possible," said Denver Health Director of Adolescent Bariatric Surgery **Annie Kulungowski, MD**. [Learn more about our adolescent bariatric surgery options here.](#)

STAY INFORMED

Orange juice shortage to limit supply across health care system

Denver Health Food and Nutrition Services expects supply shortages of orange juice through the first quarter for 2024 because of crop damage from rainfall and citrus greening disease at one of the world's top orange juice producers. Product and storage requirements may vary over the next six-plus months, and an increase in cost is expected. To support patient needs, orange juice supply will be prioritized for patient room service, followed by inpatient floor stock. All other areas, including clinics, will be substituted with apple juice. Your food service team members appreciate your patience as they navigate this challenge.



Food Truck Wednesdays to kick off Sept. 13

Denver Health is launching Food Truck Wednesdays starting Sept. 13 with Krazy Thai Food Truck, which will be on the main campus outside of Pavilion L from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Krazy Thai's menu offers pad thai noodles, thai fried rice and drunken noodles for \$14, and a six-piece crab cheese wontons for \$7. Denver Health is looking to add more vendors to keep Food Truck Wednesdays going. Check back for more dates in the 411. Share feedback or suggest other food trucks to Amy.Friedman@dhha.org.



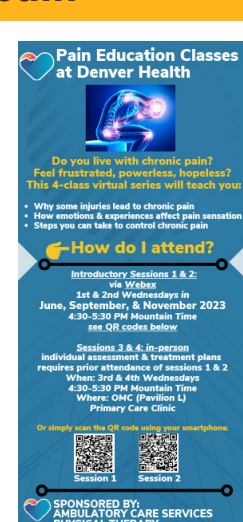
Clinic closures and holiday hours for Labor Day weekend

All Denver Health Family Health Centers will be closed Saturday, Sept. 2. All Family Health Centers, Winter Park Medical Center, and the Peña Urgent Care, Downtown Urgent Care and Adult Urgent Care clinics will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for Labor Day. [Click here for a full list](#) of holiday hours.



Free classes offered to help patients with persistent pain

Denver Health internal medicine physician Joshua Blum, MD, and physical therapist Patrick Septon are offering patient education classes this month on chronic pain, including information on the physiology of pain and self-management strategies. The series of classes runs from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on four consecutive Wednesdays, starting with free, **virtual-only** introductory sessions on **Sept. 6 and Sept. 13**. Webex links are here for [first session](#) and the [second session](#). No registration is required.



The third and fourth sessions, on **Sept. 20 and Sept. 27**, will be **in person** at the Outpatient Medical Center and may incur a co-pay or other expense for attendees who do the individualized assessments in the final two visits. Click the flyer for more information and for QR codes to join the two virtual sessions. The same four sessions will be offered on Wednesdays in November.

Denver Health wins Data Star Award for first two quarters of year

The Colorado Perinatal Care Quality Collaborative awarded Denver Health's OB-GYN team with the Data Star Award for the second consecutive quarter of 2023 for excellence in data submission for the collaborative's SOAR initiative, which aims to reduce unnecessary cesarean delivery for low-risk pregnancies. Denver Health was one of 12 hospitals in the state in Q2, and one of six in Q1, that submitted a labor dystocia checklist for at least 80% of patients with NTSV cesarean deliveries by the data deadline. Congratulations to our OB-GYN team members!

Look for new biomed work order submission process

New functionality is being added to the "HELP" icon on Denver Health computers to allow for the submission of biomedical engineering work orders. Starting next **Wednesday, Sept. 6**, users can double click on the HELP icon, and a new Biomed option will appear along with the existing IT, HR and Payroll options. You can also submit a biomed work order [here on the Pulse](#). Call the Help Desk at ext. 63777 with questions on the new submission process.

PERKS & DISCOUNTS

Get free tickets to 9/11 tribute and national security forum

All Denver Health employees can receive free tickets to a program honoring health care workers and first responders who jumped into action to help save lives on 9/11. The event, set for 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, at Ellie Caulkins Opera House, 1385 Curtis St., will feature a national security forum and 9/11 tribute. The program will include former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; retired Navy Adm. James Stavridis and CNN national security analyst Peter Bergen. [Click here to learn more](#) about the event. [Click here for tickets](#), and use code "Honor22." Email events@thecell.org with questions.

Check out Perkspot for Labor Day savings

Ahead of Labor Day, Denver Health is reminding employees of the available PerkSpot discount program, which provides exclusive deals from local and national companies. PerkSpot has fresh discounts running over Labor Day weekend, and employees can visit denverhealth.perkspot.com to create an account.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Health Dental Services group volunteers for Special Olympics

A group from Community Health Dental Services at Denver Health volunteered Aug. 20 at the 2023 Health Athletes Special Smiles Screening and softball tournament in Colorado Springs. Special Olympics Colorado athletes received free screenings for dental care, learned about oral hygiene and received fluoride applications. Denver Health volunteers included **Nick Gagner, DMD, Kojo Danso, DMD, and Danielle Ford, MHA, RDH.**



Denver Health in the media

International Overdose Awareness Day

Aug. 31, Fox31
In Colorado, 1,799 people died from drug overdoses in 2022. **Josh Blum, MD, the director of Denver Health's opioid treatment program**, joined Fox31 to talk about the importance of recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day.

Daniel O'Donnell discusses National Grief Day

Aug. 30, CBS Colorado
Daniel O'Donnell, a psychologist with Denver Health sat down with CBS News Colorado anchor Michael Spencer to discuss National Grief Day.

Colorado awarded \$245M for cost savings from state health insurance programs

Aug. 30, The Denver Gazette
Health insurers have struggled to meet the price-reduction targets mandated for Option plans. Of the 13 carriers offering Option plans, **only Denver Health Medical Plan met the targets for every plan sold in 2023** — and only Denver Health said it could meet the targets for 2024.

Many big US cities now answer mental health crisis calls with civilian teams

Aug. 27, The Associated Press
U.S. communities are increasingly responding to nonviolent mental health crises with clinicians and EMTs or paramedics, instead of police. In Denver, **STAR teams** arrive in vans stuffed with everything from medical gear to blankets to Cheez-Its. In one recent instance, they spent three hours — more time than police could likely have spent — with a Denver newcomer who was living on the streets. The team helped him get a Colorado ID voucher, groceries, and medications and took him to a shelter.

Million Hearts Recognizes Denver Health for Innovation and Commitment to Preventing Heart Attacks and Strokes

Aug. 25, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
In partnership with Million Hearts, a national initiative to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes in five years, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors is proud to **recognize Denver Health for excellence in preventing heart attacks and strokes.**

What If You Have a Sore Throat But Test Negative for COVID?

Aug. 24, Verywell health
Getting a negative result from an over-the-counter rapid test may not mean you're in the clear. "I don't know how good these tests are yet against some of the newer subvariants that we're seeing emerging," said **Connie Savor Price, MD, chief medical officer at Denver Health** and a professor specializing in infectious diseases at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Back to school tips from Denver Health

Aug. 23, Fox31
The first weeks of school can be a big change for kids, and this goes beyond starting in a new classroom. **Sonja O'Leary, MD**, from Denver Health joined Fox31 to talk about other ways to help make the transition smoother.

National awareness and recognitions

September is also Suicide Prevention Month, Blood Cancer Awareness Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Health Aging Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Sexual Health Awareness Month, Cholesterol Education Month, Food Safety Education Month and Pain Awareness Month. Thank you to our providers and staff who continue to advance health care and awareness on these important care topics.

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.

September	October
<p>Sept. 1: Old RTD EcoPasses expire</p> <p>Sept. 7: Komen walk sign-up deadline event T-shirt</p> <p>Sept. 6: Pain education class (virtual)</p> <p>Sept. 11: Free English acquisition courses start</p> <p>Sept. 11: 9/11 tribute and security forum</p> <p>Sept. 13: Suicide Prevention Awareness Month event</p> <p>Sept. 13: Food Truck Wednesdays kickoff</p> <p>Sept. 13: Pain education class (virtual)</p> <p>Sept. 20: Pain education class (in person)</p>	<p>Sept. 23: Denver Century Ride</p> <p>Sept. 26: Blood drive at Rita Bass parking lot</p> <p>Sept. 20: Pain education class (in person)</p> <p>Sept. 30: Survey on lactation rooms closes</p> <p>Oct. 4: CEO town hall</p> <p>Oct. 5: CEO town halls</p> <p>Oct. 8: Komen More Than Pink Walk</p> <p>Oct. 11: CEO town halls</p> <p>Oct. 12: CEO town halls</p>

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 expansion 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.

