

Thursday, December 1, 2022

## Denver Health paramedics thankful for annual feast



Paramedic Vernita Lewis and her mother, Debra Evans, have helped prepare a Thanksgiving feast for Denver Health paramedics for the past 15 years.

Lewis is in her 23rd year as a paramedic at Denver Health, and her mother retired as a registered nurse at Denver Health in the early 2000s. Lewis and two other paramedics were interviewed by 9News. Click below to [watch the video](#).



### Three remaining listening sessions offer chance to give feedback

CEO Donna Lynne and other Denver Health leaders thank all employees who have attended any of the listening sessions so far. The combined in-person and virtual attendance has topped 2,000. Donna has heard dozens of questions and comments, and she looks forward to hearing more.

There are three CEO listening sessions remaining: **2-3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2**, is Webex only; **4:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5**, in Sabin, Pav C; and **10-11 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5**, in Sabin, Pav C.

All staff are invited to join remotely via Webex or in person to provide feedback on your challenges and triumphs, and on the unique issues we all face at Denver Health. Questions and comments that aren't addressed by the end of each hour will be provided to Donna and the leadership team.

[Download a meeting invitation](#) for your preferred session(s) for the Webex link(s) and in-person meeting details.

[Download an invitation](#)

### Questions on pay and annual increases: An FAQ for staff

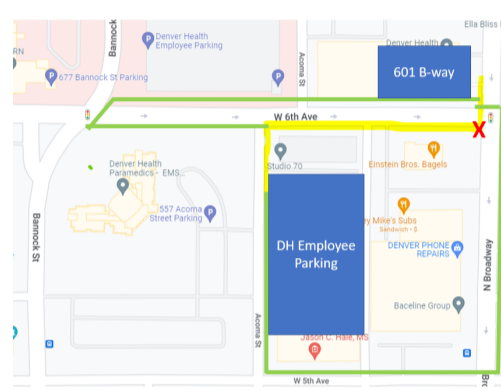
At the CEO listening sessions this week, several questions were raised about the recently announced 3% pay increases for staff who meet certain criteria. While HR was able to answer many of those questions, several questions were not answered due to time. While HR leaders are reading through those questions and trying to reach out to staff directly, [this FAQ](#) can help address questions on organizational pay increases.

[Learn more](#)

## STAY INFORMED

### Update on construction at Sixth and Broadway

The Support Services/Security team has an update from the city on the crosswalk construction at Sixth Avenue and Broadway: **the crosswalk reopening date is expected by the end of next week**. In the meantime, staff are urged not to cross any street outside of a marked crosswalk for safety reasons. Please stay safe by using the available crosswalks.



### RESTORE hosting virtual support sessions following tragedy

Denver Health RESTORE continues to offer free virtual group support sessions in the wake of the [Colorado Springs and LGBTQ+ community tragedy](#). Sessions are confidential and facilitated by RESTORE peer responders trained to provide emotional support and psychological first aid. Sessions are set for **3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5**, and **8 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 8**. RESTORE also is offering a grief and loss group for the holiday season at **8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 5**. Please [register ahead of time](#) by clicking on the link below or by emailing [RESTORE@dhha.org](mailto:RESTORE@dhha.org).



[Register here](#)

### Healthy Families and Workplaces Act (HFWA) updates

The HFWA grants employees access to emergency sick leave under specific circumstances. Denver Health provides 80 hours (for one FTE) of paid sick time for public health emergency (PHE)-related absences. As of **Nov. 11, 2022**, PHE includes health needs related to not just COVID, but also flu, respiratory syncytial virus ("RSV") and similar respiratory illnesses. The expansion beyond COVID doesn't give employees an extra 80 hours for those conditions, it just means they can use their 80 hours for a broader range of conditions. As the public health emergency has continued, regulations and guidance have evolved. With new information, Denver Health is revising how it will administer this benefit moving forward with respect to employees' use of PTO and PHE for qualifying illness. Effective **Oct. 9, 2022**, Denver Health capped PHE hours at 80 total, without an annual carry over or reset. Two additional changes will go into effect as of **Dec. 4, 2022**: PHE will not be separate from PTO, and there will be one application for HFWA. If PTO is not available, employees can go into a negative balance for PHE only up to 80 hours. Employee can apply for HFWA leave via the [HR Cherwell portal](#) – select Leave of Absence, then HFWA. Please see the [FAQs](#) for additional information.

### Help us improve your department's webpage

Denver Health considers every page on [DenverHealth.org](http://DenverHealth.org) a valuable resource for patients and a vital source of information. We strive to keep these pages up to date with the latest information, but we can't do it alone, so we need your help! Please review your department's webpage and [submit a Marketing and Communications form](#) with any necessary updates. Thank you in advance for your help.

[Submit a request](#)

## GET INVOLVED

### Volunteers sought to help wrap presents for pediatric patients



The Child Life team is asking Denver Health staff to help wrap presents for pediatric patients during **three hourlong sessions** this month. The "gift-wrapping parties" will be in the Child Life Rec Room (previously The Zone) in Room 200 in Pavilion C from **1:30-2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22**. The team hopes you can help out by wrapping presents to help bring cheer, laughter and smiles to our pediatric population during these challenging times. Email Certified Child Life Specialist [Ellen.Bower@dhha.org](mailto:Ellen.Bower@dhha.org) with questions.

[Sign up here](#)

### Denver Health HITeam hosting 'family meeting' Dec. 8

The Denver Health High Risk Infection Team (HITeam) partners with local, state and regional colleagues on special pathogen preparedness efforts, including working to remain ready to respond to the [Ebola outbreak in Uganda](#). Currently, no cases have been identified outside of Uganda. The team trains every six weeks within the biocontainment unit to care for patients with a special pathogen.

The HITeam is hosting a "family meeting" at **5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8** in the Osler/Nightingale classrooms in Pavilion C for any staff needing a refresher on PPE training, or for anyone interested in learning more about or joining the team.

Learn more on the [Infection Prevention site](#) on the Pulse, on the [Denver Health website](#), or by emailing [HITeam@dhha.org](mailto:HITeam@dhha.org).

[Read more about the HITeam](#)

### Volunteer by Friday for Denver Health's Holiday Brunch

The Food and Nutrition Services team is looking for volunteers to serve at the 2022 Holiday Brunch in the Good Day Café from **5-10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7**, when all employees are encouraged to come by for a free meal. Again, volunteers will be asked to take 30-minute shifts. We strongly encourage department leaders to join our Executive Team and Food Services crew in celebrating and thanking our amazing employees! Please sign up by **Friday, Dec. 2**. [Click here](#) to volunteer for the Holiday Brunch. For departments with employees who can't make it to the Good Day Café for the brunch, a ["skip the line" sign up form](#) is available for bulk meal pickup orders for groups of 25 or more. Bulk pickup orders must be placed by



**5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2**. Brewed coffee will be complimentary during the Holiday Brunch, and items can be purchased at the Main Street Café We Proudly Serve Starbucks when it opens at 6 a.m. The Good Day Café and Main Street Café will close from 10-11 a.m. to transition to lunch service. Please visit the OMC Café or fresh vending machines during that time.

### National awareness and recognitions

December is [Universal Human Rights Month](#) and **Dec. 10** is [Human Rights Day](#). December is also [National Safe Toys and Gifts Month](#).

Today, **Dec. 1**, is [World AIDS Day](#), **Saturday, Dec. 3**, is [International Day of People Disabilities](#) and **Dec. 4-10** is [National Handwashing Awareness Week](#).

**Dec. 5-9** is [National Influenza Vaccination Week](#) and serves as a reminder for everyone 6 months or older to get a flu vaccine. The influenza vaccine is required for all Denver Health staff. Family and friends can receive a flu shot by calling their primary care provider or by scheduling an appointment at the [Immunization and Travel Clinic](#) at Denver Health in the OMC at 303-602-3520. Learn more about the [Immunization and Travel Clinic here](#).

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.

### Health care in the news: What's trending around the state and nation

- WHO recommends [new name, "mpox,"](#) for monkeypox disease.
- More pain, no gain for [hospitals' operating margins](#) nationwide.
- COVID hospitalization rates in babies as bad as for seniors [amid omicron wave](#).

Want to share health care and health policy news? Email us stories from around Colorado and the nation at [public\\_relations@dhha.org](mailto:public_relations@dhha.org).

### December

**Dec. 2 & 5:** CEO listening sessions  
**Dec. 5 & 8:** RESTORE support sessions  
**Dec. 7:** Holiday brunch  
**Dec. 8:** HITeam 'family meeting'

**Dec. 8:** Fidelity savings web workshop  
**Dec. 8, 15 & 22:** Gift-wrapping for pediatric patients  
**Dec. 10:** Deadline for holiday employee assistance giving  
**Dec. 20:** Blood drive



[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.

