

Thursday, February 23, 2023

## Denver Health modifying masking policy March 1

Beginning **Wednesday, March 1**, asymptomatic patients, visitors and vaccinated staff at all Denver Health facilities may choose to mask but will no longer be required to do so.



Masks are still required for [infection prevention in the following situations](#):

- Patients with respiratory symptoms while in waiting areas.
- Entering the room of a patient on isolation precautions for which a mask is required.
- Staff who are unvaccinated against COVID-19.
- Staff members with symptoms of a respiratory illness or returning to work after an upper respiratory infection with lingering symptoms.

Our decision to lift the masking policy assumes there are no significant changes in epidemiological trends and is subject to change if the community infection rate rises. Unless exempt, be sure to get a bivalent (omicron) booster. Denver Health employees and contractors are asked to be respectful of anyone masking out of personal preference, individual risk factors or illness symptoms.

Signage in clinical areas and information on the Denver Health website will be updated beginning the week of February 27 to notify patients and visitors of the change.

## Safety checkpoint trial starts next week

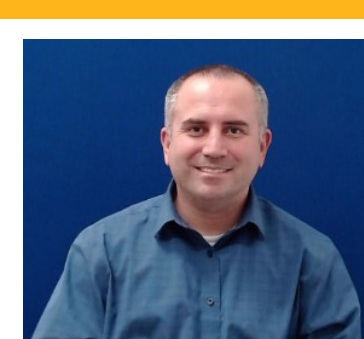
*Editor's note: As part of biweekly communication in the 411, we will detail the progression of work in the areas of safety and security at Denver Health.*

Denver Health's commitment to improving workplace safety takes another step beginning **Monday, Feb. 27**, with a trial introduction of safety checkpoints at the entrances of Pavilions A and C. The checkpoints will be tested from 8-10 a.m. Monday and will include metal detectors screening for weapons, and bag searches. Denver Health leaders and members of the Lean team will be present to observe and provide feedback. All patients and visitors will be required to pass through the metal detectors and submit to a quick bag search. Employees are encouraged to use alternate, badge-access entrances to avoid delays. Patients requiring emergency care will be directed to the Emergency Department. Signage will be posted to make patients and visitors aware of the safety checks. If needed, more trials will be conducted. Employees are encouraged to provide feedback to [SafetyEOC@dhha.org](mailto:SafetyEOC@dhha.org).



## Kris Sharp to lead safety and security

**Kris Sharp**, manager of Environmental Health and Safety, has been appointed Denver Health's new director of safety and security, effective **Sunday, Feb. 26**. Sharp joined Denver Health two years ago from Honor Health in Phoenix, moving to the city in the middle of a worldwide pandemic.



During this challenging time, Sharp was responsible for maintaining a safe environment for our patients, staff and visitors. He had an immediate positive impact on our Environmental Safety and Environment of Care programs and waste streams. In November 2022, Sharp stepped up to the challenge of leading our Security team in the interim and quickly showed what a difference leadership can make. Congratulations, Kris!

# EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

## Employee Benefits Survey open through March 3

We are excited to gather feedback from our employees on what they value most when it comes to benefit offerings at Denver Health. We have developed a brief survey for all employees to be able to answer questions and provide feedback about current benefits and potential new benefit offerings to help inform our plans and programs moving into open enrollment this fall. All employees – regardless of benefit eligibility status – are encouraged to participate. Responses are confidential, and there will be an opportunity to sign up for focus groups following the survey to review summary results and further discuss benefits. [Please click here to complete the survey](#), which will be open until **Friday, March 3**.



# RECOGNIZING YOU

## DHEMy Awards, animals delivered to departments



Members of the Denver Health Pediatrics at Denver Public Schools: School-based Health Program attended one of their quarterly all-staff meetings on Tuesday (pictured above), where they received a special delivery from Denver Health leaders. CEO **Donna Lynne**, Chief Experience Officer **Amy Friedman** and Chief Government and Community Affairs Officer **Dr. Steven Federico** presented School-based Health Centers with a DHEMy, or Denver Health Excellence Matters Award, which recognizes teams for their commitment to improving the patient and family experience.

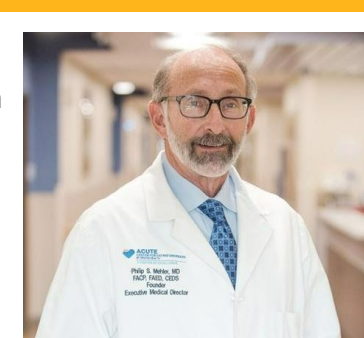


**School-based Health Centers** were recognized as the Primary Care Clinic of the Year for 2022. Other Denver Health departments will be receiving their awards in the next few weeks for their outstanding work. **Pediatrics** and the **Pediatric Intensive Care Units** were Inpatient Units of the Year, and **Cardiac Services** was the Specialty Care Clinic of the Year. **Downtown Urgent Care** and the **Primary Care Center** at the Outpatient Medical Center had the Highest Google Ratings (4.7 stars).

The winners of the Q4 2022 awards for patient experience have been anticipating the arrival of their prizes, and the wait has been rewarded. Duma the cheetah (pictured), is now settling in at **Cardiac Services**, Ricardo the giraffe now calls the **Comprehensive Care Clinic** home, and Ruby the Dalmatian continues to greet patients in **Pediatrics**.

## Dr. Philip Mehler receives Lifetime Achievement Award

**Dr. Philip Mehler**, founder and executive medical director of **ACUTE** at Denver Health, received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals' annual conference last week. Mehler is the sixth person ever to receive the award and the only provider to also receive an Outstanding Clinician Award from the Academy for Eating Disorders. The Lifetime Achievement Award honors clinicians with at least 20 years in the field who have made meaningful contributions to the body of knowledge on eating disorders and have contributed substantial time and expertise to help build the eating disorder treatment community.



Dr. Mehler founded ACUTE, the country's only designated Center for Excellence for those with the most extreme forms of eating disorders and severe malnutrition. He started his career at Denver Health more than 30 years ago and previously was chief of internal medicine and chief medical officer. He is also the Glassman Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and has authored more than 500 scientific publications, including four textbooks. Many ACUTE staff members were present and said they shared a sense of pride as they stood to be recognized as part of Dr. Mehler's team. Congratulations on this well-deserved award and for all the work you do for our community.

# GET INVOLVED

## Wear purple on March 8 to show support, win prizes

**Women's History Month** in March is a time to celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of women throughout history and in our own lives. At Denver Health, we recognize and appreciate women's important role in health care, from caring for patients to leading departments and driving innovation.



On **March 8**, we celebrate International Women's Day and invite you and your teams to show your support by wearing purple — just like Denver Health's very own stylish marketing team — taking a photo, and [submitting it here](#). The most creative images will have the chance to win prizes, such as Denver Health branded swag or treats for your team. Let's come together to celebrate Women's History Month and the powerful role of women in health care and our communities.

# STAY INFORMED

## Coming soon: Unified Communications

The next few months will bring significant changes to the way we communicate as we care for patients. Denver Health is adopting a standard approach called Unified Communications, which aims to improve patient safety and care while creating a better work-life balance for clinicians.



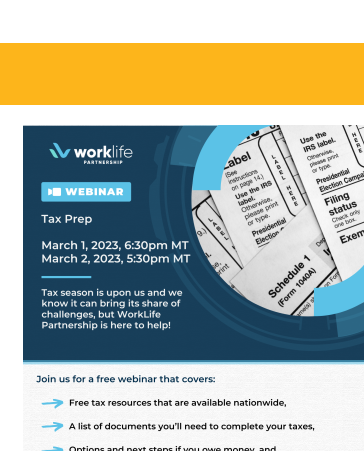
Initially, Unified Communications focuses on provider contact with care teams. Later phases will move beyond the medical staff and house staff. The approach drives the majority of communication via Epic. Starting in June 2023, pagers will no longer be an available communication channel to reach providers, including residents. Providers will be expected to use their personal phone. Nursing and other ancillary services will continue to utilize pagers for the time being.

The main goal of the project is to build a communication platform connected to the patient's electronic health record that easily identifies the right recipient, minimizes disruption for all parties, and improves patient safety by minimizing errors and miscommunication.

If you have questions or would like a team presentation, please email [ellen.sarcone@dhha.org](mailto:ellen.sarcone@dhha.org). Find additional information on [the Pulse](#).

## Free tax prep resources available

Get ready for tax season with the help of [free resources](#) from WorkLife Partnership. Tax prep webinars (also free!) at 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, March 1** and 5:30 p.m. **Thursday, March 2** will cover additional resources that are available to you without charge, a list of documents you'll need to complete your taxes and options and next steps if you owe money. This year's tax filing and payment deadline for most taxpayers is **April 18**.



Click on the flyer for more information and to join the Zoom webinar.

## Kickball tournament to celebrate Nurses Week

Celebrate Nurses Week 2023 with fun, fitness and healthy competition at this year's kickball tournament! The event is from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on **Saturday, May 6**, Randall Park in Wheat Ridge. Teams must have a minimum of 9 players; **frays, family and teens 14 or older** are welcome. There is a playground and kids' corner for the younger kids to enjoy. Team themes or costumes are encouraged. Slots are filling up fast, so [sign up here](#) today! Contact Nicole Burnet at [Nicole.Burnet@dhha.org](mailto:Nicole.Burnet@dhha.org) with any questions.



## Denver Health in the media

— **Feb. 17, Univision**  
Feature on Denver Health's school-based health center at George Washington High School  
**Laura Fagundes, PA**, talked about her efforts treating refugee students as the main provider at George Washington High School, which is Denver Health's newest school-based health center. You can [watch the story here](#).

— **Feb. 21, The Conservative Investor Daily**  
How nonprofit hospitals can improve community health through housing investments  
Denver Health's project at **655 Broadway** was featured in [The Conservative Investor Daily](#) as a way to address the social needs of a community, which are the main drivers of improving health. The project, in partnership with the Denver Housing Authority, will repurpose Denver Health's former administrative building on the main campus to help people experiencing homelessness transition out of the hospital.

— **Feb. 22, Fox31**  
More publicity for Denver Health's school-based health centers! **Martina Paiz, NP**, sat down with [Fox31 for Denver Health's weekly segment](#) to educate the public about school-based health centers and the mental health resources Denver Health's centers provide for students.

— **Feb. 22, Denver Gazette**  
According to the Colorado RN, Association, a nurse is assaulted every 30 minutes.  
Following **Kathy Boyle, Ph.D., RN**, shed insight on [how Denver Health is working to address workplace violence](#) to protect our staff and create a culture of care.

## National awareness and recognitions

**Feb. 28** is **Rare Disease Day**. March is **Social Work Month**, **Women's History Month**, **Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month**, **Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month**, **Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**, **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**, **Endometriosis Awareness Month**, **National Kidney Month**, **National Nutrition Month**, **Brain Injury Awareness Month**, **Save Your Vision Month** and **Trisomy Awareness Month**.

Is there a Denver Health 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.

February | March

- Feb. 27:** Safety checkpoint trial begins
- Feb. 28:** Colleague Lunch and Learn session
- Feb. 28:** "Health Equity Progress" webinar
- Feb. 28:** Trauma-informed practices webinar
- March 1:** Universal masking mandate lifted

- March 1-2:** Free tax preparation webinars
- March 3:** Employee benefit surveys closes
- March 8:** Wear purple for International Women's Day
- March 8:** Fidelity retirement planning appointment
- March 13:** RESTORE Support Center messages
- March 31:** Fidelity retirement planning appointment

[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.

