

Thursday, June 13, 2024

The era of surgical robotics arrives at Denver Health



Denver Health marked a significant milestone in surgical innovation on Monday with the unveiling of the da Vinci XI surgical robotic system, the first of two scheduled to go online this year. The cutting-edge technology, celebrated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the OR bridge in Pavilion A, promises to revolutionize patient care across multiple specialties.

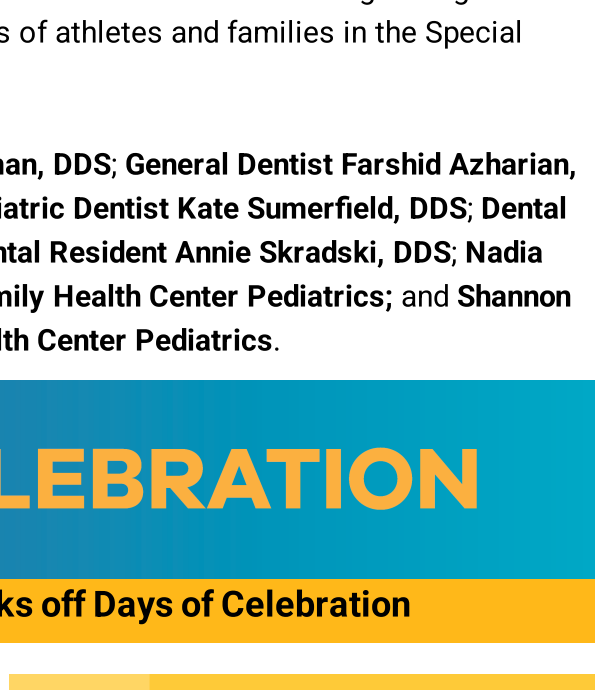
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DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT



AIM director advocates at White House event, secures grant to combat gun violence

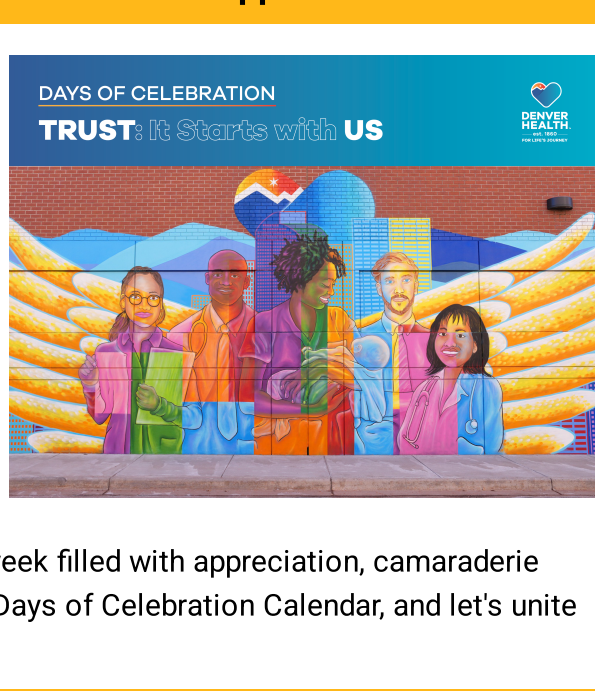
At-risk Intervention and Mentoring (AIM) Medical Director Benjamin Li, MD, MSc, participated in the recent White Coats at the White House event convened by the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention on **June 7** in Washington, D.C. The event, held to coincide with Gun Violence Awareness Month, brought together 80 medical professionals, including doctors, nurses and emergency responders, to address the urgent public health crisis of gun violence.



[Read more](#)

Denver Health volunteers support athletes at Special Olympics

Denver Health made a meaningful impact at the Special Olympics Colorado Summer Games in Grand Junction on **Saturday, June 8**. Ten volunteers from Denver Health dedicated their time to supporting athletes and raising awareness about Denver Health within the Special Olympics community. With a focus on holistic care, volunteers conducted medical, mental health and dental screenings while providing education



and health promotion to many of the thousands of athletes in attendance and their families. This collaborative effort showcases Denver Health's commitment to community engagement and well-being. Thank you to **Dental Director of Westside Family Health Center Nick Gagner, DMD** and **Patient Experience Director Sharif Abdelhamid** for organizing this effort and helping to make a difference in the lives of athletes and families in the Special Olympics Colorado Community.

Pictured from left are **Dental Resident Zoha Rehman, DDS**, **General Dentist Farshid Azharian, DMD**; **Gagner, Dental Lead Amir Jafari, DMD**; **Pediatric Dentist Kate Sumerfield, DDS**; **Dental Resident Susanne Carpenter, DDS**; **Pediatrics Dental Resident Annie Skradski, DDS**; **Nadia Solano, patient access supervisor - Westside Family Health Center Pediatrics**; and **Shannon Weyer, RN, nurse manager Westside Family Health Center Pediatrics**.

DAYS OF CELEBRATION

Values Awards ceremony kicks off Days of Celebration

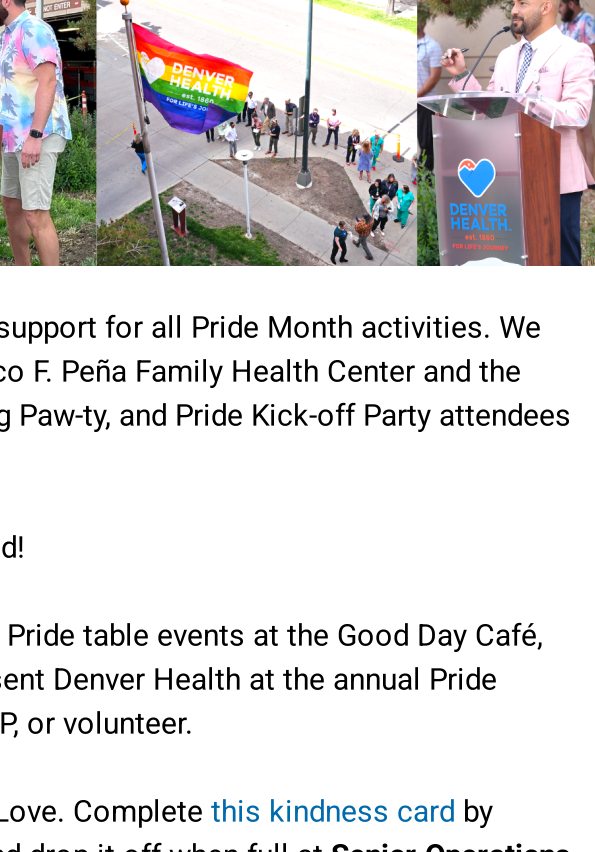
Join us [via WebEx](#) for the Values Awards celebration, honoring this year's winners, from **noon-1 p.m. on Monday, June 17**. Thank you to all those who dedicated their time to acknowledging their fellow coworkers and submitting nominations.



Embrace celebration: Join us for a week of appreciation

Next week marks a special time where we honor the remarkable contributions of our outstanding professionals and teams across the organization.

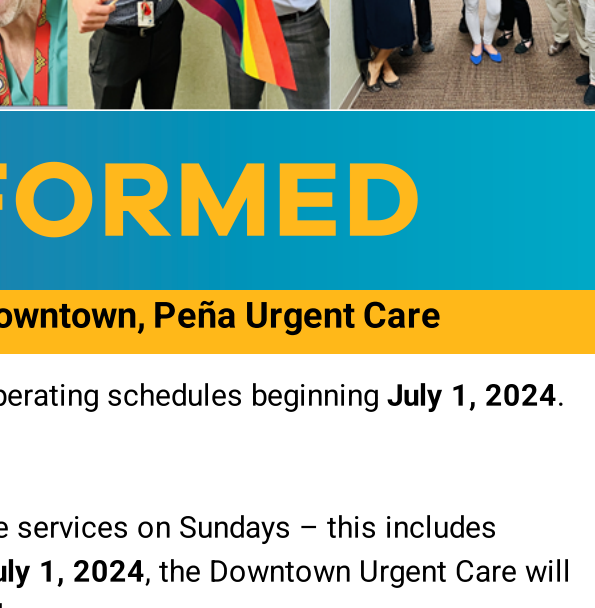
From the Values Awards Ceremony on Monday to the Employee Barbecue on Friday, each day is offers events tailored to celebrate our most valuable asset - our people.



Mark your calendars and join us in embracing a week filled with appreciation, camaraderie and laughter. [Click here](#) to access and print your Days of Celebration Calendar, and let's unite in celebration because trust truly starts with us!

A green space reimagined: Let's meet at Belonging Park

The outdoor area near **Pavilions D, E and G** will soon have a new name - Belonging Park! Join us there for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and park sign unveiling at **1:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 20**. Take a break from your day to play games, enjoy the beautiful weather and afterward, join us for the Days of Celebration Ice Cream Social.



Special café hours announced for Days of Celebration

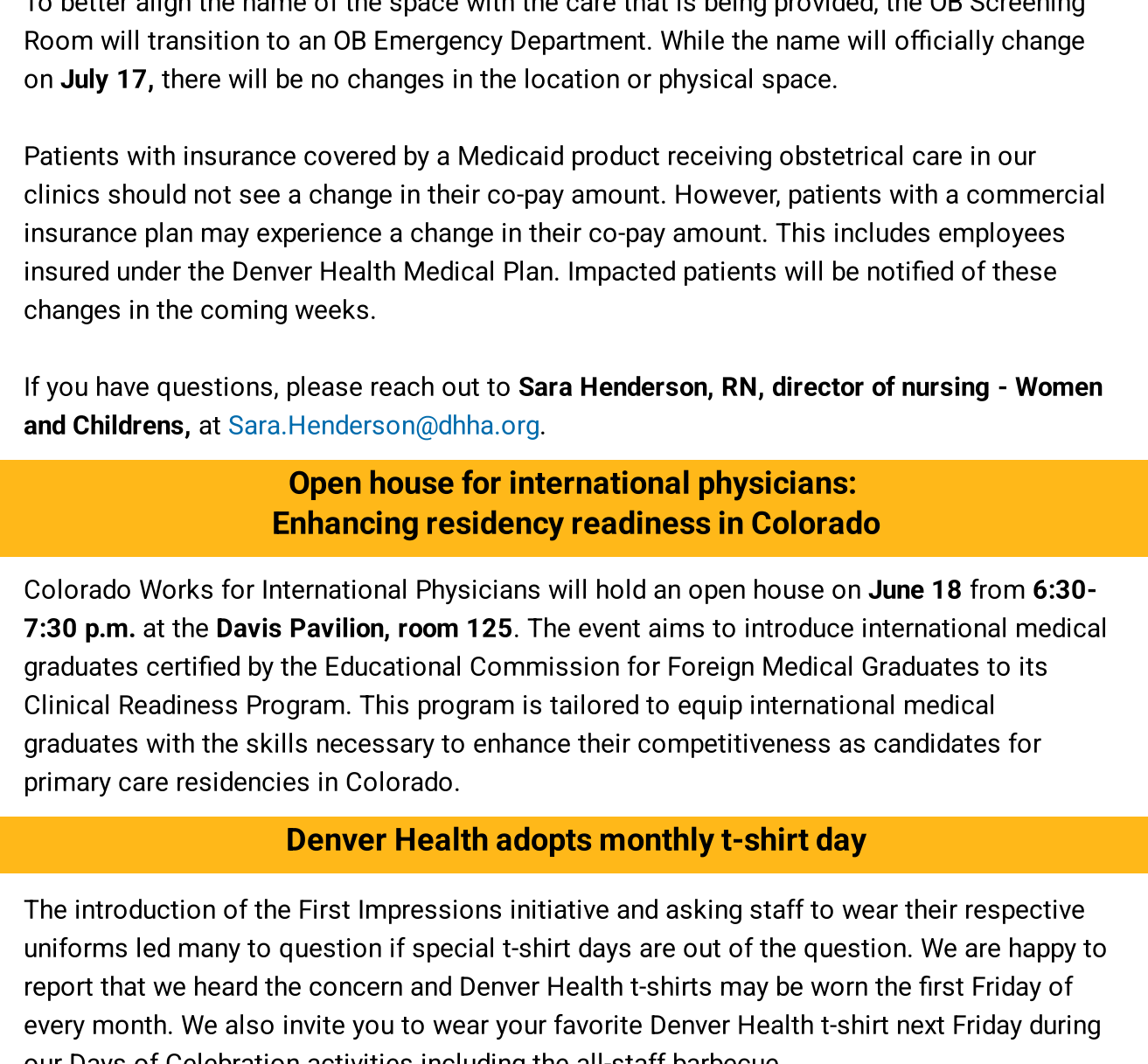
In support of Days of Celebration, changes in operating hours are slated for the Good Day and Main Street Cafés next week:

- The Good Day Café will close early at **5 p.m. on Thursday, June 20**, to prepare for the night shift BBQ meal, which will be served in the Good Day Café from **6-9:30 p.m.**
- The Main Street Café will close early at **9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 21**. The OMC Café will be open from **6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on June 21**, where you can find your favorite snack or drink.

Please visit the All Day Café, near the Good Day Café, or our fresh vending machines for any food and beverage needs outside of hours of operation.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

Are you celebrating Pride Month with PRIDE?



Denver Health employees have shown incredible support for all Pride Month activities. We want to highlight the chalk art sessions at Federico F. Peña Family Health Center and the main campus. We also had a great time at the dog Paw-ty, and Pride Kick-off Party attendees won big! Check out the [photo album](#).

There are still opportunities for you to get involved!

Volunteer at Pride Fest, visit and win prizes at the Pride table events at the Good Day Café, wear a Denver Health condom costume, or represent Denver Health at the annual Pride Parade on **June 23**. [Click here](#) to learn more, RSVP, or volunteer.

Lastly, we encourage you to show your Power of Love. Complete [this kindness card](#) by drawing a heart each time you complete a task and drop it off when full at **Senior Operations Manager Cory Rays** office, **A2319**, located on the **second floor behind the OR waiting rooms**. While you're there, enjoy the fantastic Pride Month Hallway put together by the Perioperative team (Pictured below).



STAY INFORMED

New Operations Schedule at Downtown, Peña Urgent Care

Two of our urgent care locations will have new operating schedules beginning **July 1, 2024**. The move is an effort to improve efficiencies.

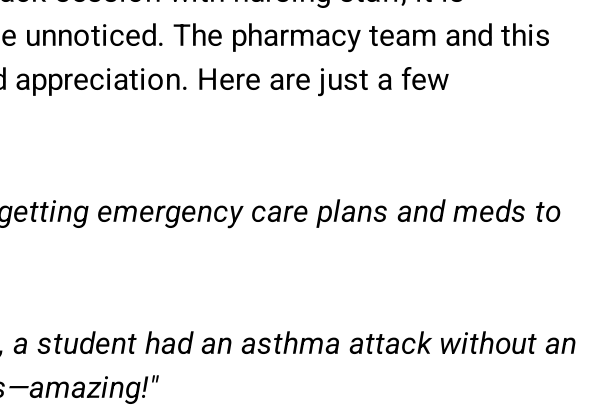
The Peña Urgent Care Clinic will no longer provide services on Sundays - this includes medical care, lab and pharmacy. Also, effective **July 1, 2024**, the Downtown Urgent Care will no longer be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

During these times, patients will be directed to other options of care at the Adult Urgent Care, Pediatric Urgent Care or Virtual Care Centers.

[Learn more](#)

Annual education opens in July

Annual Education serves a dual purpose at Denver Health: it benefits both the patients we serve and fulfills a regulatory requirement for our organization. This comprehensive program ensures that we stay informed about policy, regulatory, legislative and legal changes, helping us effectively manage risk.



Our 2024 Annual Education campaign kicks off on **July 1** and runs through **September 13**. All classes can be accessed through Workday Learning. It's mandatory for all employees to complete their annual education. Depending on the role, training should take between 60-90 minutes to complete.

To keep everyone on track, reminders will be sent out in the following cadence:

- 14-day reminder
- 7-day reminder
- 3-day reminder
- Due tomorrow
- Due today

After these reminders, compliance will follow up until completion is achieved.

Annual Education is crucial for staying up-to-date with changes and ensuring compliance. By ensuring all employees are compliant, we demonstrate our commitment to maintaining a knowledgeable and responsible workforce.

OB Screening Room transitioning to Emergency Department

To better align the name of the space with the care that is being provided, the OB Screening Room will transition to an OB Emergency Department. While the name will officially change on **July 17**, there will be no changes in the location or physical space.

Patients should not see a change in their Medicaid product receiving obstetrical care in our clinics with insurance coverage by the Denver Health system. However, patients with a commercial insurance plan may experience a change in their co-pay amount. This includes employees insured under the Denver Health Medical Plan. Impacted patients will be notified of these changes in the coming weeks.

If you have questions, please reach out to **Sara Henderson, RN, director of nursing - Women and Childrens**, at Sara.Henderson@dgha.org.

Open house for international physicians: Enhancing residency readiness in Colorado

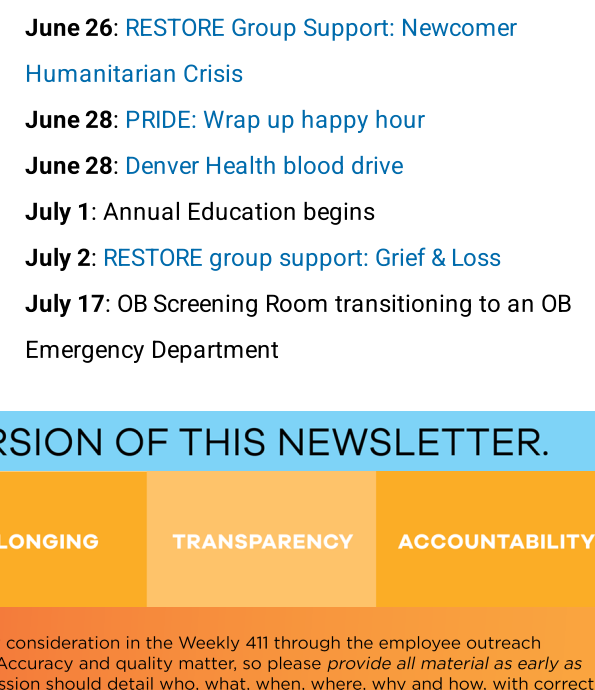
Colorado Works for International Physicians will hold an open house on **June 18** from **6:30-7:30 p.m.** at the **Davis Pavilion, room 125**. The event aims to introduce international medical graduates certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates to its Clinical Readiness Program. This program is tailored to equip international medical graduates with the skills necessary to enhance their competitiveness as candidates for primary care residencies in Colorado.

Denver Health adopts monthly t-shirt day

The introduction of the First Impressions initiative and asking staff to wear their respective uniforms led many to question if special t-shirt days are out of the question. We are happy to report that we heard the concern and Denver Health t-shirts may be worn the first Friday of every month. We also invite you to wear your favorite Denver Health t-shirt next Friday during our Days of Celebration activities including the all-staff barbecue.

Uniting through music and medicine at Five Points Jazz Festival

On **Saturday, June 8**, Denver Health joined Denver Arts & Venues for the 2024 Five Points Jazz Festival. Dedicated volunteers from across Denver Health came together to connect with the community and share some insights into the mission and history of Denver Health.



Volunteers educated attendees on Denver Health's various locations and services while giving patients the chance to serve a prize wheel to win swag. The team heard many positive stories about our hospital system's impact on their lives and had the opportunity to visit with many people who had never heard of Denver Health, expanding our outreach and influence.

Volunteering for events like these always reminds us of all the amazing work Denver Health does and the impact we make on the community every day. If you would like to volunteer at future events, we welcome you to [sign up here](#).

Adaptive Primary Care – We've changed our name

Adaptive Primary Care opened in March of 2020 as the Spinal Cord Injury Primary Care Clinic. In **May 2024**, the name changed to better reflect the advanced services now offered to all patients with mobility impairments. The clinic is staffed by **Alicia Wong, MD** and **Patricia Meyer, MD** who are both family medicine physicians. Our clinicians provide comprehensive primary care while also having increased understanding of medical conditions affecting patients with mobility disabilities. Adaptive Primary Care offers primary care services for patients with mobility impairments including: spinal cord injury, spina bifida, polio, cerebral palsy and others. Services are more accessible through the use of adaptive equipment including: adjustable height beds, wheelchair scale, slide boards and hoist lifts.

Adaptive Primary Care is part of the **Primary Care Center**, on the 7th floor of the **Outpatient Medical Center**. The clinic has weekly appointments. As of **June 12**, our EPIC referral will change from "Ambulatory Referral to Spinal Cord Injury Primary Care" to the new referral "Ambulatory Referral to Adaptive Primary Care". Referrals can be made for patients to transfer primary care providers to Adaptive Primary Care or for visits for preventative/primary care that requires adaptive equipment such as gynecologic care or full skin exam.

Research Spotlight

Pilot Study Grant Program launches Friday

The Pilot Study Grant Program opens its biannual funding cycle this **Friday, June 14**. To advance the organization's work as a learning health system, the program was developed in 2018 to support the advancement of employees interested in being researchers. It offers an investigator funding track and a mid-career funding track.



Letters of intent are due **July 15** and proposals are due **August 15**. Two awards of \$25,000 are available and the 12-month funding begins in the fall.

Find out more information on the [program's SharePoint](#) or contact the [Office of Research](#) with any questions.

Read the latest in learning health system research

As part of the quality improvement and research equity efforts in our learning health system, Denver Health researchers are on the forefront of high-quality, equity-based research. This month's Research Spotlight shares four studies recently published from the Office of Research team.

[Read more](#)

GRATITUDE

Denver Health Pharmacy praised for Scripts-to-Schools program

Denver Health would like to express gratitude to our pharmacy team for its dedication to getting our school-based health center virtual care program, Scripts-to-Schools, up and running this year. Following a recent annual feedback session with nursing staff, it is abundantly clear that their dedication has not gone unnoticed. The pharmacy team and this program have garnered overwhelming support and appreciation. Here are just a few sentiments shared:

"I love Scripts-to-Schools! It's a game-changer for getting emergency care plans and meds to school."

"I gotta give props to Scripts-to-Schools. One time, a student had an asthma attack without an inhaler. We got him one at school within two hours—amazing!"

"Delivering an EpiPen to a family with insurance issues was clutch. It made a huge difference in a potentially life-threatening situation."

"I spent ages getting an asthma care plan and inhaler for a fifth-grader. With the mom busy with a new baby, it wasn't easy. But we got it sorted the next day!"

Your tireless efforts significantly improve the lives of these children—thank you! Special recognition is due to **Epic Lead Application Analyst Jimmy Pohlén**, whose critical role was instrumental in this initiative.

IN THE NEWS

The 411 highlights top stories of the week. Please visit [In the News on the Pulse](#) for a rundown of all recent stories featuring Denver Health.

Blood banks want more gay donors despite remaining restrictions
June 7, 9News

"I think that science has caught up and I think folks who are taking PrEP are less likely to have HIV than folks who aren't taking it who might have some potential exposure. Personally, I think it's time to rethink the restrictions because I do think that people can be on PrEP and safely donate blood and blood products," said **Sarah Rowan, MD, an infectious disease physician at Denver Health**. "I think if they lift this restriction, then there would be more blood donors and less stigma."

Colorado hospital systems' finances rebound after a difficult 2023
June 10, The Denver Post

Denver Health hasn't released full first quarter numbers, but **Associate Chief Financial Officer Ansar Hassan** reported the health system lost about \$12 million between January and April... April was better than the previous three months, so the "belt-tightening" seems to be helping, and the system could break even this year, Hassan said.

FDA Warns Against 'Microdosing' Mushroom Chocolate Bars Linked to Severe Illnesses
June 10, The New York Times

There is little regulatory oversight of these chocolates, which sometimes contain psilocybin or other compounds that can induce a psychedelic effect... "There's not great quality control around some of these products to know exactly what's in them," said **Chris Hoyte, MD, medical director of the Rocky Mountain Poison Center**, which is investigating illnesses linked to Diamond Shrooms.

What to know about common shoulder, rotator cuff injuries
June 12, Fox31

Jessica Churchill, MD, orthopedic surgeon at Denver Health, joined Fox31 to talk about shoulder pain and the most common shoulder injuries seen during the summer months.

Noninvasive Ventilation for Preoxygenation during Emergency Intubation
June 13, New England Journal of Medicine

Stacy Trent, MD, associate professor of emergency medicine at Denver Health, co-authored a new study in NEJM that found among critically ill adults undergoing tracheal intubation, preoxygenation with noninvasive ventilation resulted in a lower incidence of hypoxemia during intubation than preoxygenation with an oxygen mask.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June | July

- June 13:** Fitness Center trial registration deadline
- June 17:** Values Awards ceremony
- June 17-20:** 50th anniversary of the Rocky Mountain Trauma & Emergency Medicine Conference
- June 17-21:** Days of Celebration
- June 18:** RESTORE Group Support: Black/African American Affinity
- June 18:** Financial Workshops: Retirement: Planning for your future
- June 18:** Colorado Works for International Physicians open house
- June 19:** PRIDE: Queering black art
- June 20:** Days of Celebration: Yoga class
- June 20:** Belonging Park ribbon-cutting ceremony
- June 20:** Good Day Café closes at 5 p.m.
- June 20:** Main Street Café closes at 9:30 a.m.
- June 22-23:** PRIDE Fest

- June 23:** PRIDE Parade
- June 24:** Financial Workshops: The Sandwich Generation
- June 24:** PRIDE table event at the Good Day Café
- June 25:** PRIDE: Cultivating Belonging Class
- June 25:** RESTORE Group Support: Workplace Safety Concerns
- June 26:** Bike to Work Day
- June 26:** Schwartz Rounds: Faith at work
- June 26:** RESTORE Group Support: Newcomer Humanitarian Crisis
- June 28:** PRIDE: Wrap up happy hour
- June 28:** Denver Health blood drive
- July 1:** Annual Education begins
- July 2:** RESTORE group support: Grief & Loss
- July 17:** OB Screening Room transitioning to an OB Emergency Department

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Denver Health VALUES how we do it.	RESPECT	BELONGING	TRANSPARENCY	ACCOUNTABILITY
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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.

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