

Thursday, June 8, 2023

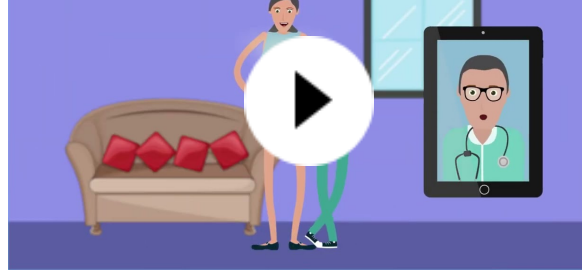
Denver Health welcomes new mayor, council members

Denver has a new mayor for the first time in 12 years. Denver Health leaders have met a couple of times with **Mayor-elect Mike Johnston** and many of you tuned in to hear his position on top health care issues during the Denver Health-hosted health care debate in May. **CEO Donna Lynne**, **Chief Government and Community Affairs Officer Steve Federico, MD**, and **special adviser Elbra Wedgeworth** also met with most of the new City Council leaders. It was important that each has a general understanding of Denver Health and the needs of our health system. Dr. Federico shared that we feel confident that we are entering a relationship with the newly elected mayor, council officials and incumbents who are well informed and open to supporting Denver Health as the care provider they are proud to recommend. A special thank you to Elbra for her expertise in advising Donna and Dr. Federico through the election process. Next month, we will recognize **Mayor Michael Hancock**, his administration and outgoing council members for their support.

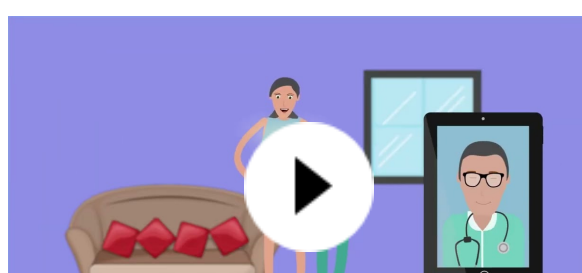


DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT
Video visits at Denver Health make life easier

Denver Health's Virtual Care and Marketing and Communications teams have partnered to create new videos promoting the ease of making a video visit appointment at Denver Health. Video visits allow you the convenience of having an appointment from the comfort of your home or from anywhere in Colorado.



The promotional videos, available in [English](#) (top right) and [Spanish](#) (bottom right), are playing now on TV screens around the hospital and at community health centers and will be shared on social media soon. [Click here for more information](#) on Virtual Care services.



Physician advancing message of health-housing connection

Denver Health's efforts to raise awareness about the connection between health and housing are getting some national attention lately thanks to the relentless drive of **hospitalist Sarah Stella, MD**.



Last year, a hospitalist-led point-in-time survey of hospitalized patients on one single day showed that 22% shared that they were housing insecure. One in five was unhoused.

"We recognize that in order for patients to thrive, it means considering factors beyond health needs, like housing," Dr. Stella said. "We know the Denver Health hospital system alone can't solve the issue, so we're focused on building and expanding housing and health collaboratives – locally and nationally."

Last month, Dr. Stella (pictured second from right at the Denver Healthcare for the Homeless Council Annual Conference and Policy Symposium) highlighted what she and Denver Health are doing at conferences in Aurora, Baltimore and Philadelphia along with partners from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, UC Health, the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the Urban Institute.

One local effort getting recognition is our partnership with the Denver Housing Authority. That project at 655 Broadway has run into some construction delays, and apartments won't be available to transition patients to until at least 2024.

DH expert addresses biocontainment conference in Germany

Denver Health's Disaster Health program director **Caroline Persson, MPH, MPA, CIC, CPH**, was a guest speaker at the Permanent Working Group of Competence and Treatment Centers for high-consequence infectious diseases last month in Berlin. She presented "Infrastructure and Organization: The Experience of Thirteen Biocontainment Units in the United States" alongside Christa Arguinchona, MSN, RN, CCRN, of Providence Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, Washington.



The meeting is an annual event for German biocontainment experts to learn best practices from other countries, including the 13 **Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers** in the U.S., one of which is at Denver Health.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, special pathogens are highly infectious agents (such as Ebola) that are capable of producing severe disease in humans and best contained and treated in a specially equipped biocontainment unit.

The Berlin meeting highlighted the broad scope of internationally recognized programs at Denver Health and its leadership role at the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center, which works with the regional centers to advance special pathogen readiness.

Golf fundraiser for Denver Health Foundation raises over \$65K

The **42nd Annual Denver Health Employee Golf Tournament** raised more than \$65,000 to support the greatest needs that help Denver Health youth patients get a healthy start in life and provide care throughout all stages of their development. The tournament was held June 2 at Fox Hollow Golf Course. A big thank you to the Denver Health Golf Tournament Committee members **Kristie Sheets, Lezlie Kephart, Mike Jones, Jason Pollock, Logan Fuller, Bret Baca, Jon Mroch** and **James Levay**.



The first-place team (top right), finishing with a score of 56 was, from left, **Jake Beyer, Andy Kim, Matt Tolley and Benjamin Titus**. The "most honest team" (bottom right), with a score of 94 was, from left, **Adrienne Bauer, Jana Pehrson, Sharon Birnberg and Paulette Bugbee**. Congratulations to all the prize winners, and we look forward to seeing another strong turnout at the 43rd annual employee tournament next year.



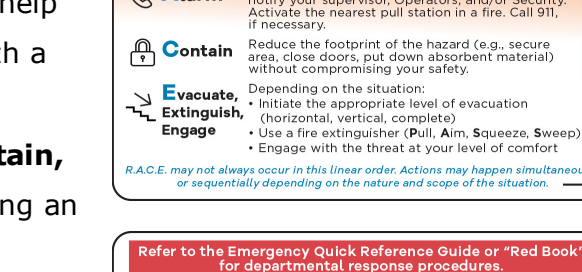
STAY INFORMED
HR updates on 'Catch That Star' and 'hot job' incentives

The process to refer external candidates for jobs at Denver Health has changed and is now done via Workday. Referrals must be submitted via the new process to be eligible for payment. The job application no longer asks candidates to enter the name of the employee who referred them. The "Refer a candidate" action, available in the Careers application on the Workday home page, will email the employee's referral a custom application link. The candidate must apply via that link for the referral to be recognized. Updated instructions are linked in the [policy](#), and available [here on the Workday Resource Hub](#).

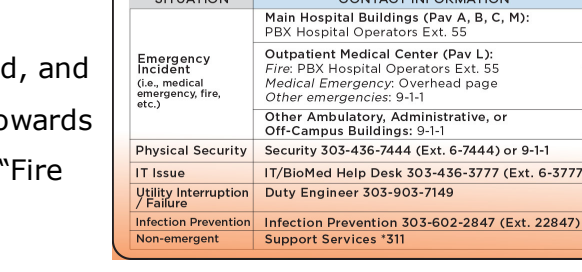
The list of hot jobs has been updated effective June 1 to include \$5,000 incentives for experienced Cath Lab Nurses and Certified Invasive Cardiology Specialists – RCES, RCIS or ARRT (CI). Experienced OR Nurses, CRNAs – Nurse Anesthetists, and CAAs – Certified Anesthesiology Assistants remain at the \$5,000 level as well. Flip through those social media contacts; you never know what stars are shining out there in cyberspace!

New employee safety badge buddies to be handed out

Denver Health takes an all-hazards approach to emergency response. This means that regardless of the particular hazard or threat, there are certain elements of response that are always applicable to help staff in initiating action to an emergency. To empower staff with a highly reliable process for response and to strengthen muscle memory, we use the acronym **R.A.C.E.** (**Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Evacuate/Extinguish/Engage**) to outline steps to take during an emergency.



Over the past couple of years this response process has evolved, and we have transitioned away from "code language" and moved towards "plain speak." For example, we do not say "Code Red," we say, "Fire Alarm Activation."



The Emergency Management team has updated employees' safety badges to align with the all-hazards approach and provide staff with a tool for remembering how to initiate response during any emergency. During Days of Celebration, Emergency Management will be handing out the new badge buddies and swapping out the old edition. We look forward to seeing you!

Construction update for Broadway and Sixth

Construction work that is causing the 24/7 double right line closure on eastbound Sixth Avenue between Delaware and Lincoln streets is expected to continue through at least Friday, according to the City and County of Denver. The ongoing utility removal and replacement timeline is weather dependent and subject to change, and delays have been a regular occurrence for this project. Please plan for slower than usual traffic along Sixth during rush hours and consider alternate routes to and from work. More information is available on the [Denver Moves: Broadway website](#).



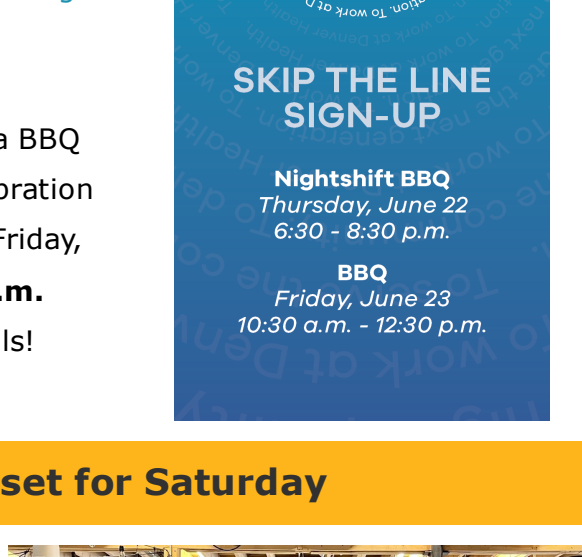
GET INVOLVED
Take the new Pulse poll ahead of Days of Celebration

Denver Health employees are encouraged to take the new poll on the bottom of the Pulse homepage, and let us know which Days of Celebration event you're most excited to attend. **Days of Celebration, June 19-23**, will feature a barbecue and ice cream social, a Juneteenth lunch and learn, a scrubs fair, Walk with a Doc and a PRIDE photo gallery tour. [Click here](#) to see a full calendar of events on the Pulse.

The previous poll asked why we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. More than 56% of employees picked the correct answer, which is to commemorate the 1862 victory by Mexican troops over invading French forces at the Battle of Puebla.

Sign up to volunteer or order bulk meals for Days of Celebration BBQ

We are looking forward to the **2023 Days of Celebration** employee BBQ and ice cream social! The Food and Nutrition Services team **needs volunteers to help serve BBQ and ice cream to employees** on Thursday, June 22, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-9:30 p.m., and Friday, June 23, from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Unit and department leaders are encouraged to join the Executive Team and Food Services crew in celebrating and thanking our amazing employees. [Please sign up here](#) to volunteer **by Friday, June 9**.



If your department has at least 25 employees who would like a BBQ meal, **sign up to pre-order bulk meals** for the Days of Celebration nightshift BBQ on Thursday, June 22, or the daytime BBQ on Friday, June 23. The deadline to sign up to "Skip the Line" is also **5 p.m. Friday, June 9**. [Sign up here](#) and make sure to read the details!

Safe firearm surrender event set for Saturday

Denver Health is teaming up with **Guns to Gardens, RAWtools** and Denver's **Office of Community Violence Solutions** to support this Saturday's **voluntary, safe firearm surrender**. Volunteers will be assisting residents who want to safely turn in firearms which will immediately be dismantled and turned into garden tools (below). **Denver Health internal medicine physician Elizabeth Clarke, MD**, (above right, with volunteer Taylor Davenport-Hudson), will be among the volunteers and recently shared in a news release the importance of Denver Health's involvement in these events.



"The hope is that by voluntarily removing unwanted firearms from our community, we can reduce firearm deaths," Clarke said. "As a geriatrician, I worry about my patients who are at risk for impulsive death by suicide as they weather aging and loss, and about patients who may develop dementia and no longer know how to safely store or use their guns."



The event will be held from **10 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 10, at Curé d'Arms Catholic Church**, 3201 Dahlia St., in Denver and is one of many initiatives now underway as part of the [Denver Health Firearm Safety Collaborative](#) that recently was organized to address the public health impact of gun violence.

Denver Health in the Media

Denver Health uses CRM to build better relationships with patients
June 2, *Health Leaders Magazine*

"Once you have this tool, the value is immediately apparent," says **Rachel Everhart, MS, PhD, director of research**. Denver Health has been using Epic's Cheers CRM tool for more than a year and is seeing large increases in engagement for vaccinations and other services. "It's a different way to think of patient care, and one that is working very well."

How hospitals are performing gender-affirming health care
June 7, *Fox31*

June marks **LGBT Pride Month**, a time for community, celebration and commemoration for queer communities. **Cydney Brown, education trainer** for Denver Health's **LGBTQ+ Health Services**, appeared on Fox31 to discuss how a little support goes a long way and also talked about the services Denver Health provides.

The Sense & Sensibility of Being an Abortion Haven
June issue, *5280 Magazine*

This article explores what local health care practitioners, advocacy groups, and Coloradans are doing to ensure abortion remains accessible. The "Misinformation Nation" section of the article features **Tara Thomas-Gale, director of family planning** at Denver Health's **Community Health Services**. "We hear patients quote TikTok all the time," Thomas-Gale says. "What they say is almost always inaccurate and often portrays reproductive health care negatively."

A Health System's Experience With Inclusive Race and Ethnicity Data Collection, and the Need for Data Equity Principles
June 2, *Health Affairs*

Virtually all health systems claim to collect demographic data, but few do so in ways that respect patient choices on how to self-identify. This article focuses on how Denver Health addresses race and ethnicity data collection with our diverse patient population through prioritizing patient autonomy and focusing on how people prefer to self-identify.

Burnout to Brilliance: Nurse's Immersive Workshops Address Trauma in Healthcare Systems
June 5, *Good Good Good*

A survey by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, published in April 2023, found that over 100,000 nurses left the profession due to pandemic-related burnout and stress. **Tara Rynders, RN, clinical nurse educator** at Denver Health is also a dancer and choreographer. She created an immersive theater performance at Denver Health to raise awareness about compassion fatigue and nursing burnout. "The whole eight hours was full of wonder, play, and fun. No agendas, no metrics, no expectations – except to experience joy and be present," she told *Good Good Good*.

National awareness and recognitions

June 10 is **Family Health and Fitness Day**. June 14 is **World Blood Donor Day**. 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.

June		
June 9: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 4	June 10: Family Health and Fitness Day	June 11: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 7 (if necessary)
June 10: Five Points Jazz Festival	June 11: World Blood Donor Day	June 12: Nightshift BBQ
June 10: Voluntary safe firearm surrender	June 12: Daytime BBQ	June 23: Walk-in mammograms for employees
June 15: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 5	June 23: Daytime BBQ	June 24: Walk with a Doc
June 15: Nuggets vs. Heat, Game 6 (if necessary)	June 23: Walk-in mammograms for employees	June 27: Lunch & Learn - implicit biases and microaggressions towards LGBTQ+ communities
June 15: School of Medical Laboratory Science application deadline	June 24: Walk with a Doc	June 30: Cornerstone annual education training deadline
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CLICK HERE FOR A PDF VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE WEEKLY 411 Submit your request 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.

