

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Check out employee flu clinics and respiratory pathogen Pulse site

As respiratory illness season continues, you can track influenza, COVID-19 and RSV data, and stay updated on testing, vaccination recommendations, masking and return-to-work policies on the [newly revised respiratory pathogen Pulse](#) site on the Pulse. Denver Health has not received the updated COVID-19 boosters but expects them soon. Patients should contact their provider or clinic directly to inquire about the new booster shots.



Remember that Denver Health employees are required to receive an annual flu shot by **Nov. 1**. Onsite vaccination clinics begin **Sept. 25**; you can get [flu clinic dates and times here](#). **CEO Donna Lynne** got her flu shot, by her "Fight for Colorado" tattoo, from **medical assistant Destiny Carrillo Ferguson** on Thursday in the 601 Broadway building.

Denver Health advances sustainable funding conversations

One of the key areas of focus for Denver Health executives is addressing the financial sustainability of our health system. This week, **CEO Donna Lynne** made a case for increased funding from the city before City Council. While sharing the real costs of providing health care and health services throughout the city, she acknowledged that Denver Health is exploring the possibility and viability of other local public funding sources, beyond the city payment. This strategy, with support from our Board, includes studying other safety-net health systems across the U.S. for best practices, and identifying and evaluating potential local funding sources to supplement the investment from the city.

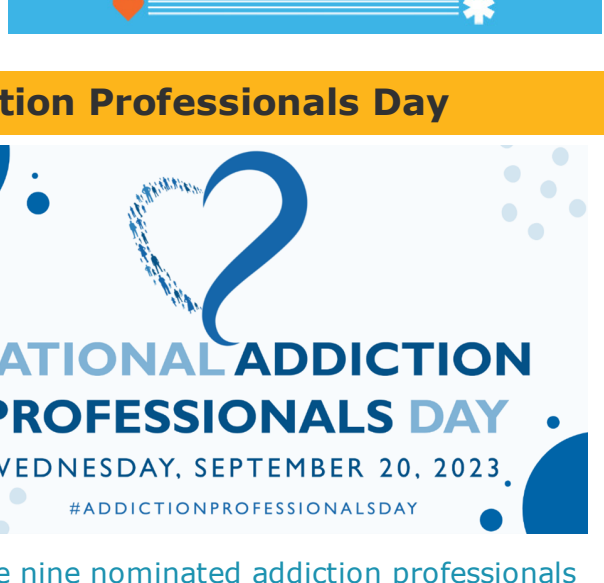
"We know the city cannot be our only source of public support and while our conversations are promising with the city to increase our payment from them, in order to invest in the future, we need to secure much larger funding sources," said Denver Health CEO Donna Lynne. "We are exploring opportunities at the local, state and federal level, with a local initiative being the strongest option."

Recently, we conducted a public opinion poll to better understand what voters know about Denver Health and what might be done to better fund our efforts as a safety-net system. Some of you may have even received a call to take the poll. In addition, we are convening the Denver Health Sustainable Funding Task Force to review the options and decide on the viability of them. This task force will work closely with our **Chief of Government and Community Affairs Steve Federico, MD**. Look for more updates on these efforts at the upcoming CEO Town Halls and in the 411.

RECOGNIZING YOU

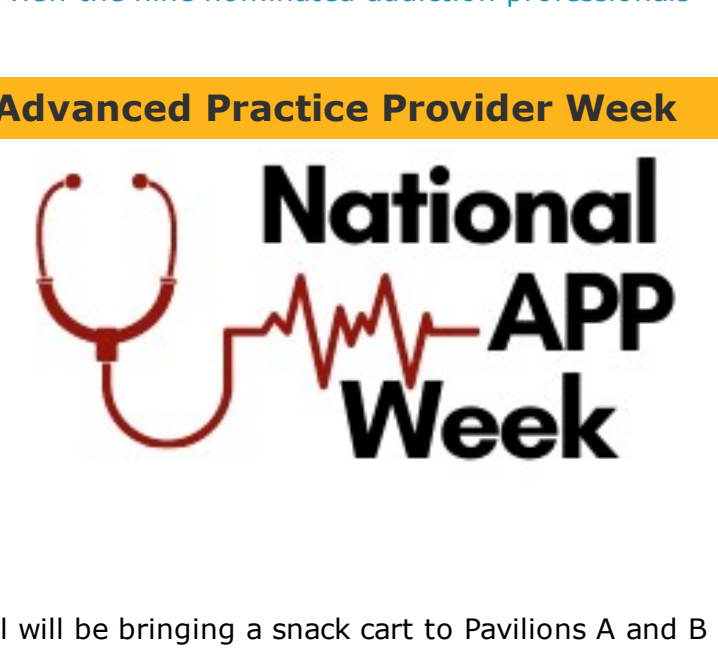
Dr. Gene Moore included on Top Docs list

In the **Sept. 7** edition of the 411, we missed one of the 13 Denver Health physicians who made this year's annual "Top Doctors" issue of 5280 magazine. Trauma surgeon **Ernest E. "Gene" Moore, MD**, was left off our list. We apologize for the oversight and congratulate Dr. Moore, namesake of the Ernest E. Moore Shock Trauma Center at Denver Health, and all of our physicians who made the Top Docs list.



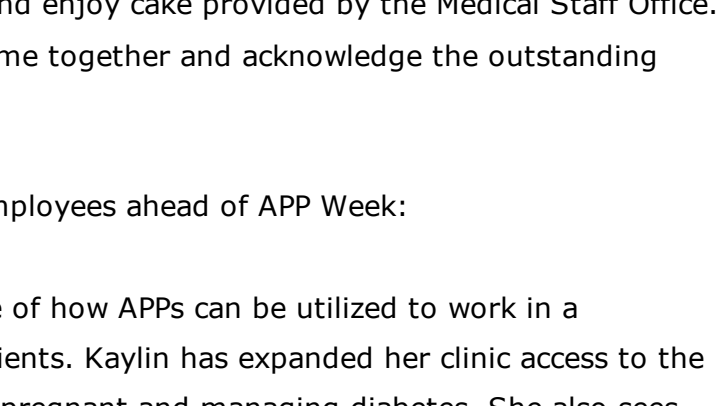
Highlighting staff for National Addiction Professionals Day

The Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM) celebrates all of the clinical staff at Denver Health who do work related to substance use treatment. In honor of National Addiction Professionals Day on Wednesday, Sept. 20, CAM reached out to program leaders and asked them to highlight one special addiction professional from their team. Of course it was challenging to choose just one, as everyone is working so hard to serve this population. [Click here to view the nine nominated addiction professionals](#) and read excerpts from those who referred them.



Celebrate our APPs during National Advanced Practice Provider Week

National Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Week is **Sept. 25-29** and is a time to celebrate all APPs who are a valued part of our health care team and who provide the highest-quality care to our patients. At Denver Health, we have more than 360 APPs, which include physician assistants, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, clinic nurse specialists and certified registered nurse anesthetists.



As part of our celebration, members of the APP Council will be bringing a snack cart to Pavilions A and B at **1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25**, and to the Outpatient Medical Center at **2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26**. There also will be an APP Council meet-and-greet at **noon Thursday, Sept. 28**, in the Medical Staff Office Lounge, where you can connect with your colleagues and enjoy cake provided by the Medical Staff Office. This gathering will provide an opportunity for us to come together and acknowledge the outstanding work of our APPs.

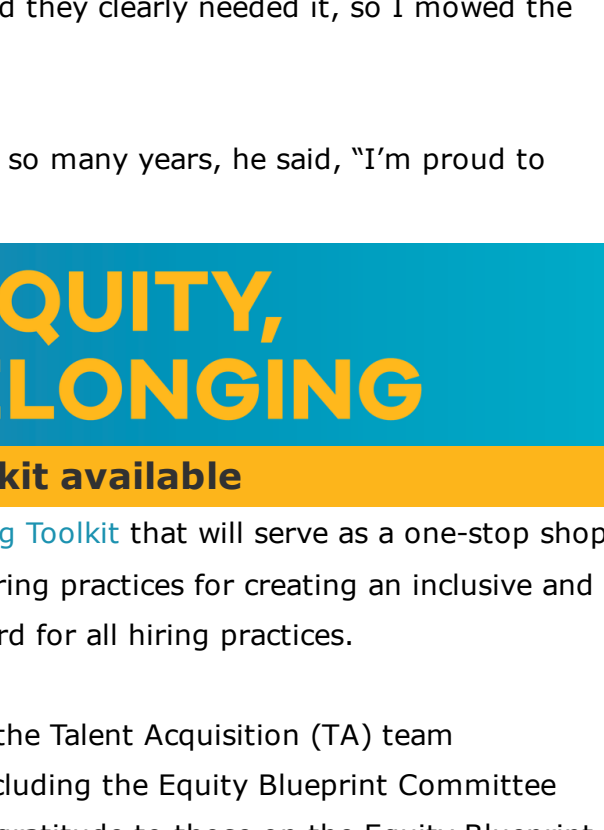
The APP Council would like to shout out a couple of employees ahead of APP Week:

Kaylin Falzetti, NP, with endocrinology is an example of how APPs can be utilized to work in a multidisciplinary way to improve access to care for patients. Kaylin has expanded her clinic access to the Women's Care Clinic, where she sees patients who are pregnant and having diabetes. She also sees patients in oncology for steroid-induced hyperglycemia. **Rocio Pereira, MD**, said Falzetti "is a wonderful team member and has been instrumental in helping our team expand our glucose management services."

Brendan Notestein, NP, with hospital medicine, assisted in writing an algorithm for electrolyte management in adult acute care non-ICU patients. This algorithm seeks to increase nursing staff autonomy for managing orders and standardizing care of hospitalized patients. Notestein's work on process improvement is an excellent example of an APP going above and beyond the realm of clinical work.

Denver Health paramedic's actions a 'cut' above

Denver Health Paramedic **Steve Colvin** (pictured) has experienced a lot in his 22 years here, but this month he mowed his first lawn for a patient. Colvin, paramedic candidate **Joshua Radcliffe** and student **Michael Dawson** responded to a call for an elderly man with Parkinson's disease who had collapsed in his yard while attempting to start his lawn mower. While Radcliffe and Dawson attended to the patient, Colvin spoke to the man's wife. She was frustrated that the city had given them notice they would be fined if the yard wasn't trimmed and that her husband was having trouble with the lawn mower because of his age and medical condition. Recognizing it as the same type of mower he has at home, Colvin quickly triaged the machine, got it started and mowed the lawn for the couple so they wouldn't get fined. The patient was stabilized at home and didn't need to be taken to the hospital.



"My guys were taking care of the patient. I knew I had time and they clearly needed it, so I mowed the lawn," Colvin said.

When asked what makes him go above and beyond, even after so many years, he said, "I'm proud to work for a good place — I wouldn't be here otherwise."

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

New Inclusive Hiring Toolkit available

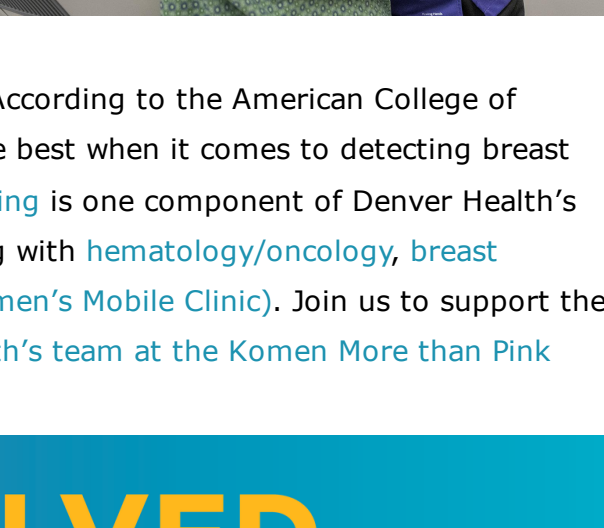
Human Resources is sharing its new, interactive **Inclusive Hiring Toolkit** that will serve as a one-stop shop for all employees as Denver Health continues to improve its hiring practices for creating an inclusive and highly engaged workplace. This toolkit sets and defines standard for all hiring practices.

In developing the toolkit and its resources over the past year, the Talent Acquisition (TA) team collaborated with thought partners across the organization, including the Equity Blueprint Committee and Organizational Development team. TA extends its sincere gratitude to those on the Equity Blueprint Executive Committee, the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Council, Workforce Development Partners, Ambulatory Care Services (ACS), Public Health, Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM) and the hiring leaders and individual contributors who took part in many focus groups.

Look for information soon on an Inclusive Hiring classroom training occurring this fall.

Join Schwartz Rounds for "Transgender Wellness" panel

Schwartz Rounds offer a forum for all Denver Health caregivers, colleagues and staff to address the emotional and social challenges faced in taking care of patients and families. The Schwartz Rounds mission is to promote compassionate health care and strengthen the relationship between patients and caregivers. Join the Schwartz Rounds committee for a panel from **8-9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27**, at 601 Broadway, Room 412, or virtually using this [Webex link](#). The topic for this Rounds is "Transgender Wellness: How Are We Coping?" Learn more [here on the Pulse](#).



DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

Employee mammography "Screening Fridays" return in October

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and as part of Denver Health Breast Imaging's "Screening Fridays" — when we dedicate our clinic on the fifth floor of the Outpatient Medical Center to mammograms — the department is once again offering blocks of appointments just for employees from **8 a.m.-2 p.m. every Friday in October**. Each employee screening day will be limited to 50 patients and you must register for one of the days by answering a few simple questions on this [form](#). Once accepted, you can walk-in anytime within the 8 a.m.-2 p.m. window on the date you sign up for. According to the American College of Radiology, in comparison with national data, we are among the best when it comes to detecting breast cancer early, which is when it can be treated best. **Breast Imaging** is one component of Denver Health's collective breast cancer care being recognized in October, along with [hematology/oncology](#), [breast surgery \(surgical oncology\)](#) and the [Mobile Health Center \(Women's Mobile Clinic\)](#). Join us to support the fight to end breast cancer and sign up to walk on Denver Health's team at the [Komen More than Pink Walk, 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 8](#), at Civic Center Park.



GET INVOLVED

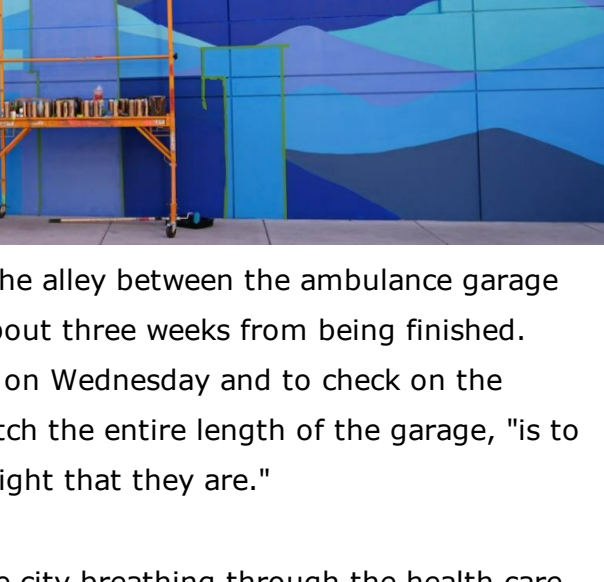
Remember to take our Internal Communications Survey

The Denver Health Marketing and Communications team values your input and wants to hear from as many employees as possible by **Friday, Sept. 29**. Please take the **Internal Communications Survey** to help us improve the information and news you receive as employees. Thank you for your participation!



Take control of your financial future with Fidelity

You can schedule an appointment with a Fidelity retirement planner anytime at [fidelity.com/reserve](#). A Fidelity retirement planner can meet with you virtually, by phone or on the Denver Health main campus. Upcoming on-campus dates include: **Sept. 27, Oct. 13 and 31, Nov. 17 and 29, and Dec. 1 and 13**.



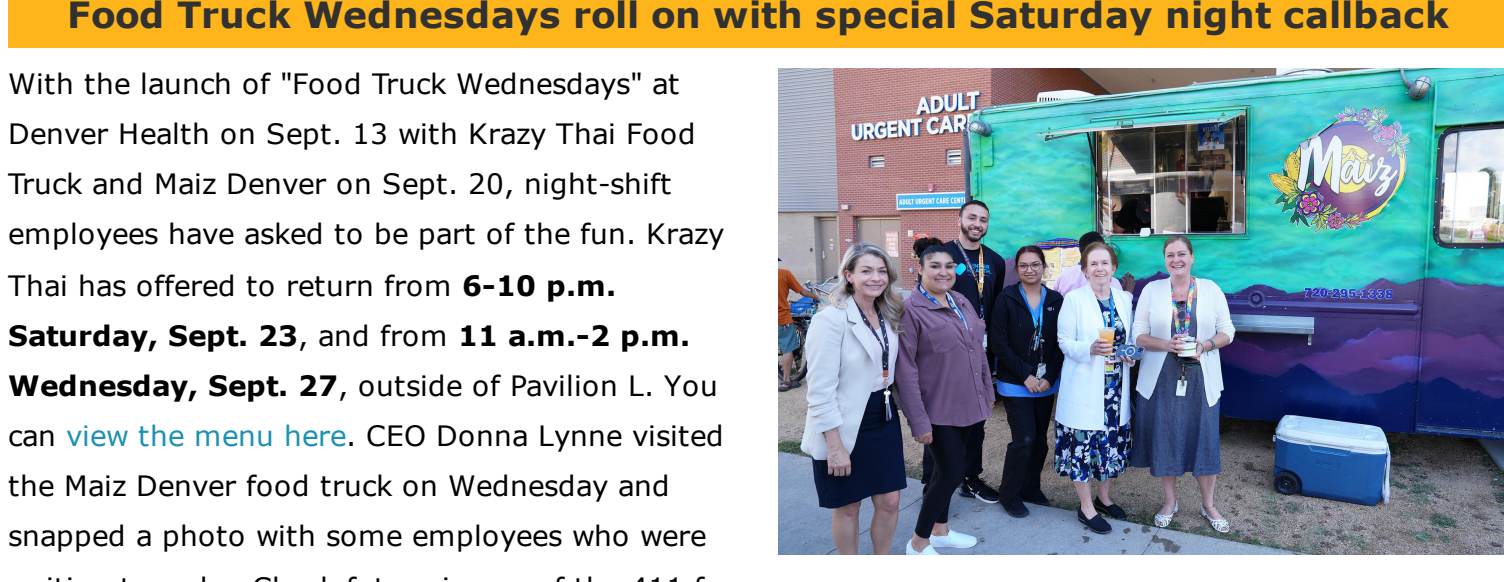
Fidelity also offers educational web workshops, all presented at noon, to teach strategies and tips to help you manage your financial future with confidence. Upcoming workshops include:

- **Oct. 4:** Building a Future That's True to You: Money and the LGBTQ+ Community. [Register here](#).
- **Oct. 5:** IVAMOS POR MÁS! Helping You Reach Your Family Goals. [Register here](#).
- **Oct. 12:** 5 Money Musts. [Register here](#).
- **Nov. 8:** 5 Manage Unexpected Events and Expenses. [Register here](#).
- **Dec. 5:** Take the First Step to Investing. [Register here](#).

Visit this [Pulse](#) subsite for more information and to register for the workshops. Questions? Email Kristin.Ellis@dhha.org

STAY INFORMED

Denver muralist making progress at main campus



Denver artist Austin Fowler said Wednesday that his mural in the alley between the ambulance garage and the Outpatient Medical Center patient parking garage is about three weeks from being finished. Denver Health CEO Donna Lynne stopped to meet with Fowler on Wednesday and to check on the progress. Fowler said the concept of his design, which will stretch the entire length of the garage, "is to celebrate health care workers and show them as the beautiful light that they are."

"What I really wanted to encompass in this piece is to show the city breathing through the health care workers," Fowler said. "With Denver Health being right in the city, I wanted to display that connection between the health care workers and their direct positive impact within the city of Denver."

Watch for mural updates in future issues of the 411.

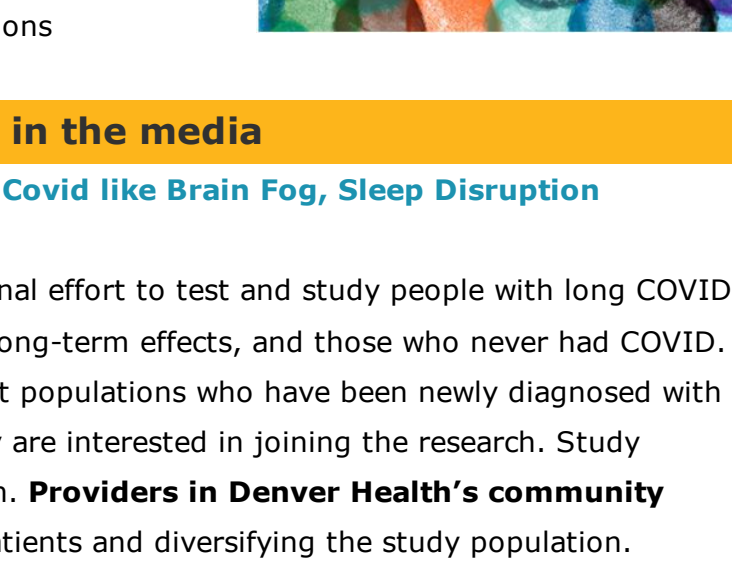
Physicians and providers: Schedule your photo for your online bio

The Denver Health website is an integral part of the patient experience and is often the first interaction patients have with our organization. The website allows patients to find information about our providers and services. But, **we need your help!** Our provider directory is one of the most visited sections on our site and is an easy way for patients to learn about our care teams. However, a significant number of provider pages do not have accompanying photos. If you do not have a photo, please reach out to James.Henshaw@dhha.org in the security badging office in the 601 Broadway building to schedule some time to have your picture taken.

Thank you for doing your part to improve our website by having your photo take and for the excellent care you all provide to our community.

Food Truck Wednesdays roll on with special Saturday night callback

With the launch of "Food Truck Wednesdays" at Denver Health on Sept. 13 with Krazy Thai Food Truck and Maiz Denver on Sept. 20, night-shift employees have asked to be part of the fun. Krazy Thai has offered to return from **6-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23**, and from **11 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27**, outside of Pavilion L. You can [view the menu here](#), CEO Donna Lynne visited the Maiz Denver food truck on Wednesday and snapped a photo with some employees who were waiting to order. Check future issues of the 411 for updates on food trucks coming to the main campus in October.



Denver Health experts develop new overdose guidelines

Denver Health and Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Safety (RMPDS) experts recently authored a major publication that updated the American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines for CPR and emergency cardiac care for patients with life-threatening poison lesions. Opioids are just one of the substances addressed in the updated AHA guidelines. But the threat posed by overdoses from such drugs, particularly fentanyl, is immense, said **Eric Lavonas, MD, MS, emergency medicine physician at Denver Health**. "Opioids kill more Americans than all other poisons together by a lot," said Lavonas, who led the expert panel that wrote the [updated guidelines published Monday](#). "They kill more Americans than motor vehicles, and the death rate keeps climbing. It's getting insane." Co-authors included Chris Hoyte, MD, MBA, and George Sam Wang, MD, both with the RMPDS. The authors addressed 12 poisoning situations and the growing role of ECMO in the management of people with critical poisoning. [Click here to read more](#).

Some Denver Health employees receive phony town hall email invites

Denver Health's Information Technology (IT) Department received reports Thursday of two CU Anschutz users who sent Outlook invitations to more than 100 Denver Health employees' email addresses inviting them to "CEO Townhall meetings." The users had tried to send the email to all 8,000-plus employees, but nearly all were blocked by IT. The two CU email addresses were blacklisted, and our team notified the CU IT team of the issue. The official CEO Town Hall invites came from DenverHealth411@dhha.org. You can find the list of town halls, which run Oct. 4-12, and their meeting invites, [here on the Pulse](#).

PERKS & DISCOUNTS

Enter drawing for chance to win free massage

The Denver Health RESTORE Support Center, on the first floor of Pavilion B, will offer Denver Health personnel free 15-minute chair massages with a Zeel massage therapist from **noon-4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27**. [Click here to enter a drawing](#) for your chance to win a massage. **Winners** will be contacted by phone and email on Monday, Sept. 25, and offered time slots. Names on the sign-up list and the winners will be kept confidential. Email questions to RESTORE@dhha.org.



Denver Health in the media

CO Docs Test Treatments for Symptoms of Long Covid like Brain Fog, Sleep Disruption
Sept. 15, Colorado Times Recorder
The **RECOVER** initiative is a massive, multi-year national effort to test and study people with long COVID symptoms, those who had COVID but did not suffer long-term effects, and those who never had COVID. The RECOVER team identifies patients from the target populations who have been newly diagnosed with COVID and reaches out to them directly to see if they are interested in joining the research. Study materials are now printed in both Spanish and English. **Providers in Denver Health's community health centers** have also had success in recruiting patients and diversifying the study population.

An NC doctor found 'joy' treating transgender youth. Now his job is at risk
Sept. 20, Yahoo! News
Over the past few years, it's become a "scary climate" for doctors who provide gender-affirming care, said **Elizabeth Kvach, Denver Health's LGBTQ+ health services medical director**. She worries for all providers who may face restrictions, and her institution has already taken steps to safeguard Colorado physicians. "I myself have certainly taken measures to try to protect myself and the work that we're doing in Denver," Kvach said.

Most racially inclusive hospital, by state: Lown Institute
Sept. 20, Becker's Hospital Review
A new report from the Lown Institute, an independent inpatient healthcare think tank, measures how well more than 3,100 U.S. hospitals serve people of color in their surrounding communities. Racially inclusive hospitals served more patients of color than expected based on the demographics of their service area. In Colorado, the highest-ranking hospital is **Denver Health!**

How to protect a child from a dangerous car crash
Sept. 20, Fox31
Nationally, more than 700 children died in car crashes in 2021, including more than 200 who weren't restrained properly. **Missy Anderson from Denver Health** joined FOX31 to discuss why car seats and other proper restraints are so important.

September	October	November
Sept. 23: Denver Century Ride	Oct. 8: Komen More Than Pink Walk	Nov. 1: Employee flu shot deadline
Sept. 23: Walk with a Doc at City Park	Oct. 10: Hispanic Heritage Month potluck	Nov. 8: Fidelity educational web workshop
Sept. 23: Krazy Thai Food Truck on campus	Oct. 11: CEO town halls	Nov. 17: Fidelity retirement planner on campus
Sept. 27: Schwartz Rounds panel	Oct. 12: CEO town halls	Nov. 29: Fidelity retirement planner on campus
Sept. 27: Fidelity retirement planner on campus	Oct. 12: Fidelity educational web workshop	
Sept. 27: Discounted tickets to Rocky Truck on campus	Oct. 13: Fidelity retirement planner on campus	
Sept. 29: Discounted tickets to Rockies vs. Twins	Oct. 13: Screening Fridays	
Sept. 29: Internal Communications Survey closes	Oct. 20: Screening Fridays	
Sept. 30: Survey on lactation rooms closes	Oct. 27: Screening Fridays	
Oct. 4: CEO town hall	Oct. 31: Fidelity retirement planner on campus	
Oct. 5: Fidelity educational web workshop		
Oct. 5: CEO town halls		
Oct. 5: Fidelity educational web workshop		
Oct. 6: Screening Fridays		

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.

