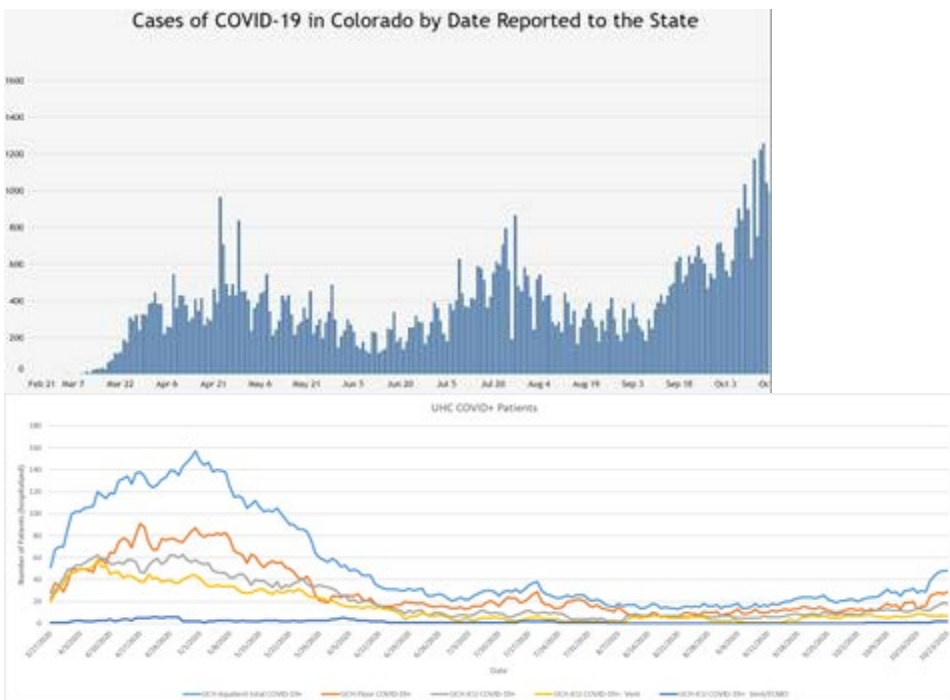


**From:** [Schwartz, David](#)  
**Cc:** [Keyser, Holli](#); [Allen, Larry](#); [Barnes, Kathleen](#); [Borges, Virginia](#); [Burden, Marisha](#); [Buttrick, Peter](#); [Chonchol, Michel](#); [Colgan, Sean](#); [Earnest, Mark](#); [Edmundowicz, Steven](#); [Fontenot, Andrew](#); [Freed, Curt](#); [Gritz, Mark](#); [Haugen, Bryan](#); [Holers, Michael](#); [Jordan, Craig](#); [Messersmith, Wells](#); [Moss, Marc](#); [Poeschla, Eric M](#); [Schwartz, Robert](#); [Stenmark, Kurt](#); [Austin, Gregory](#); [Beck, James](#); [Carmichael, Corena](#); [Flores, Sonia](#); [Ho, Michael](#); [Musani, Ali](#); [Albert, Richard](#)  
**Subject:** DOM Covid Communication  
**Date:** Sunday, October 25, 2020 12:15:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)

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Dear Friends and Colleagues.

As all of you know, the second surge of Covid-19 is unfortunately upon us. In Colorado, the number of daily cases are the highest they've ever been (below graph) and our hospital census of SARS-CoV-2 infected patients has increased to the high 40s at UCH (was as low as 12 a few weeks ago; see below graph). In the DOM, we have 2 hospital medicine services and 1 ICU surge service devoted to the care of these patients. Similar increases in cases have been seen at DH, NJH, and the VAMC.

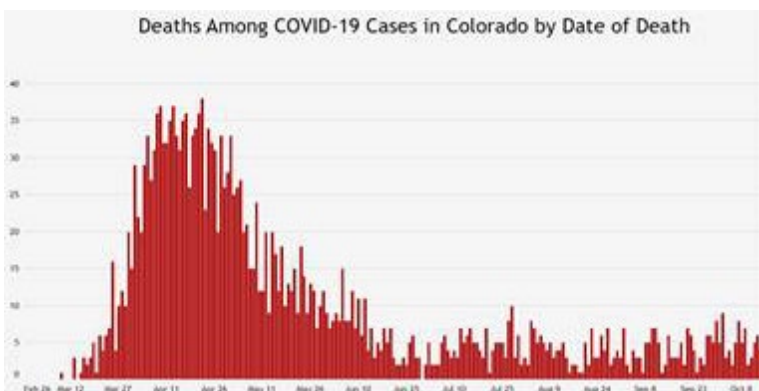


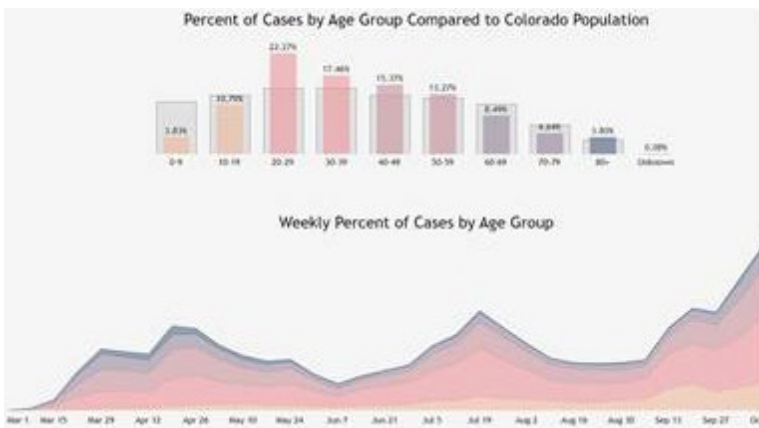
There are a few points I want to make:

- Do not come to work if:
  - You have Covid related symptoms (fevers/chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste/smell, GI symptoms, or excessive fatigue)
  - You have been around someone with Covid in the past 14 days and were not wearing PPE
- Wellness and mental health services are available to you. These past 6 months have taken an emotional toll on all of us. We're all tired, pushed beyond our reserves, and isolated/lonely. Please reach out for help if you need it. Confidentiality will be respected and you have access to many levels of support as highlighted below.
  - DOM: [Department of Medicine COVID-19 Resource Webpage](#); [WellDOM – Wellness in the Department of Medicine](#)
  - Department of Psychiatry: [Department of Psychiatry COVID-19 Support Website](#); [The](#)

[CU Anschutz Faculty and Staff Mental Health Clinic; CU Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center](#)

- Denver Health:
  - RISE Program 303-436-RISE (7473) or [DHRISE@dhha.org](mailto:DHRISE@dhha.org)
  - Employee Assistance Program Health Advocate 866-799-2728 or [answers@HealthAdvocate.com](mailto:answers@HealthAdvocate.com)
- National Jewish Health:
  - Kaiser Mental Health Appointment Line 303-338-4545
  - Employee Assistance Program 866-799-2485
- VAMC:
  - [Employee Assistance Program](#) 800-869-0276 or <https://espyr.com>
- I have decided to re-initiate weekly DOM Covid-19 Town Halls. The first Town Hall is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> (7-8 PM; <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/98034012095>) and will focus on the epidemiology of the second surge. If you can make it, please join us.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has improved its website and changed its web address: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data>.
- The number of Covid deaths in CO (see below graph) in proportion the number of cases has substantially decreased. There are several reasons for this:
  - More comprehensive testing is available
  - The age at diagnosis is shifting to lower age groups (see below graph)
  - Care for Covid infected patients has improved
    - Remdesivir and Dexamethasone have proven to be beneficial
    - Other treatments, like hydroxychloroquine, have proven to be ineffective
    - It seems like the diagnosis is being made earlier in the course of the disease (though I have no data to support this statement)





Please take care of yourself and your families. We'll get through this next surge as long as we continue to work together. We did it before and we've learned a lot from our experience. However, I worry most about your resilience, fatigue, and loneliness. Please let me know what I can do to help. I look forward to hearing from you with your concerns and ideas. My very best wishes.  
David

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