FRIDAY'S FEATURES

NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[CU Anschutz medical school sees 35% increase in applications from last year](#) is a story in the *Sentinel* by Carina Julig who also reports an increase of applications to the nursing school of 42%, numbers that are much higher than the national increases. Ideas for why this is happening are discussed.

[Colon Cancer and Black Race: Barriers and Opportunities](#) is a recording of the inaugural Greg White Lecture series presented last month by Dr. Folasade May, director of the Melvin and Bren Simon Gastroenterology Quality Improvement Program at UCLA. I'd like to suggest it will be worth your time.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Unhoused Coloradans Are Not a Priority Under State's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan](#) is a story in *The Colorado Trust's* newsletter, Advance, by Fran Kritz about the concern advocates for people experiencing homelessness in Colorado have that neither homeless shelters nor people living on the streets are included in the state's current vaccination distribution plan.

[Toward a Medical "Ecology of Attention"](#) is a perspective piece by Dr. Mark J. Kissler and colleagues in *The New England Journal of Medicine* who call out how the most important, most limited resources is *attention*…the key factor in the mastery of complex, skilled practices. It enables both good and satisfying work but is often a casualty of well-meaning efforts to maximize productivity.

[Testing in a Pandemic – Improving Access, Coordination, and Prioritization](#) is a perspective piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Yolanda Botti-Lodovico and colleagues who discuss how success to managing a new, lethal

virus is dependent on tracking viral spread rapidly from its early stages to identify people who are infected and protect those who are not. The authors suggest that by building distributed capacity and prioritizing resources in response to public health demands, the United States can transform our trajectory in fighting this pandemic and preempting future ones.

COVID In Colorado: First Mass Vaccination Event Held at Coors is a story covered by Conor McCue for *4CBSNews* about a drive-through vaccination opportunity last weekend at Coors Field for those aged 70 years and older (1,000), a trial run for an even larger event (10,000) is planned for this weekend.

Behind closed bedroom doors, a teenage mental health crisis is brewing is an opinion piece in *The Guardian* by Gaby Hinsliff about how children's mental health services in England are unable to meet the huge demand, let alone the aftermath of the pandemic if preparations are not made now.

"People are not okay": The mental health impact of the Trump era is a *Vox* article by Anna North about how his presidency is over, but the trauma is not, and how these effects are not distributed evenly.

How three Philly groups are raising mental-health awareness in immigrant communities is a story in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* by Bethany Ao who writes about how three Philadelphia nonprofits have developed unique approaches to helping the city's immigrant communities at a time of heightened uncertainty.

POLICY EFFORTS

Rural health care is in crisis – here are 5 innovative ways Biden can help it transform is an article in *The Conversation* by Dr. Lauren Hughes, state policy director at the Farley Health Policy Center, and Dr. Sameer V. Vohra, pediatrician and founding chair, department of population science and policy at the Southern Illinois University, who suggest ways that the Biden administration can transform rural health care to allow it to survive and even thrive.

Hidden in Plain Sight – Reconsidering the Use of Race Corrections in Clinical Algorithms is an article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Darshali A. Vyas and colleagues who write about how physicians still lack consensus on the meaning of race, and how race-based medicine still has potential. They illustrate potential dangers with a list of race-adjusted algorithms.

Optimizing Telehealth during COVID: Listening to the Primary Care Voice is an issue brief produced by the *Farley Health Policy Center* and *Colorado ECHO,* Dr. Kyle Leggott and colleagues, who report on two facilitated discussions among Colorado primary care providers and health professionals who provide first-hand experiences with the rapid shift to telehealth, and their recommendations to optimize these services now and post-pandemic.

Shaping National Public Health Policies with Science is a story on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site about how experts from across the country drive the work of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine; a force for scientific inquiry with roots that run deeply in the country's soil. They gather to consider, debate, analyze and synthesize the evidence that will be used by leaders to make decisions that affect the daily lives of millions of Americans.

COVID-19 Positive Nurses Keep Working in Rural America is a video clip posted on *The Doctors* that features Dr. Lauren Hughes, Farley Health Policy Center's State Policy Director, and Dr. Jennifer McKenney, county health officer in rural Kanas, who discuss the unique health challenges of rural America in a pandemic.

Five Urgent Public Health Policies to Combat the Mental Health Effects of COVID-19 is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Cindy B. Veldhuis and colleagues who stress the importance of the Biden administration and Congress investing as much in combating the short- and long-term mental health effects of COVID-19 as they invest in developing and distributing vaccines if our country is to fully recover from this pandemic.

Investing in Health: A Bold and Pragmatic Federal Action Plan is a blog post written in partnership by Blue of California Foundation and the Commonwealth Fund that calls for a new set of federal policy and regulatory choices and includes not only aligning financial incentives but developing a community-level infrastructure and shifting the role of clinicians and payers to collaborate with community partners.

Why do we only care about long-term care in a crisis? is an opinion piece on *The Hill* by Richard Frank and colleagues who call out how we are unwilling to dedicate even a small fraction of the trillions needed to support the shutdown of the economy to improve the quality of life and prevent deaths among vulnerable populations at times other than in a pandemic.

'Wealth increase of 10 men during pandemic could buy vaccines for all' is a BBC story that indicates that the combined wealth of the world's 10 richest men rose by $540bn during the pandemic, according to Oxfam. The charity claims this amount would be enough to prevent the world from falling into poverty because of the virus and pay for vaccines for all. The organization is urging governments to consider taxes on the super-rich.

COVID-19: Urgent Federal Actions to Accelerate America's Response is a report/recording from a panel discussion by the Bipartisan Policy Center's Future of Health Care Initiative that included recommendations for immediate action to bolster the nation's pandemic response. This report points out primary care's invisibility in the policy world and "a glaring ignorance of what primary care is, how this platform works, its adaptability and trustworthiness, and a lack of imagination about how this platform is poised to help with public heat and mental health and chronic care and educating people related to COVID."

[What Makes Michigan's High-Performing Primary Care Practices Work Well?](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* blog by Diane Marriott who provides results about what makes a difference in primary care as learned from the multi-payer CPC+ Michigan dashboard and in-depth interviews with practice members in the top 20th percentile of performance on both ED and inpatient utilization.

[Marketplace Eligibility Among the Uninsured: Implications for a Broadened Enrollment Period and ACA Outreach](#) is an issue brief on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Daniel McDermott and colleagues who report on an analysis where they examined the key demographic characteristics of the uninsured eligible to buy Marketplace coverage, estimating the numbers of people who might benefit from an SEP and how outreach activities might be best targeted.

[A Content Analysis of Mental Health Discourse in Popular Rap Music](#) is an article in *PubMed* by Alex Kresovich and colleagues who suggest that future research is needed to examine the potential positive and negative effects the increasingly prevalent messages contained in the lyrics of rap artists have on shaping mental health discourse and reducing stigma.

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Every year medical-legal partnerships help thousands of people in 40 states and the District of Columbia](#) is a post on the *National Center for Medical Legal Partnership* site that discusses the impact MLPs are having on patients across the country.

[The National Center for Medical Legal Partnership](#) posts resources on their site for those considering developing MLPs as well as those underway.

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