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# November, 2020 - COVID UPDATES



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Misinformation & Politicization of the Pandemic

It is honestly impressive the extent of misinformation and politicization has been running rampant since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. People taking "sides" on an issue that to most in the medical community shouldn't have any sides. My goal here is not to politicize anything, I'm strictly going to stick with facts as we currently understand them. As research continues our understanding may change along with how we approach them. I hope that I can be a source of up to date information for you that you can actually trust to give you the truth.

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Is COVID-19 Really as Dangerous as the Media Portrays?

I understand that it is difficult to understand what all the fuss is about. The media, regardless of what channel you watch or trust, has to sell their story and narrative to you as a viewer. Fear mongering, spin, and false narratives have become all too common in today's age. So, let's just stick to facts and see if we can understand what makes COVID dangerous. COVID-19 has been labeled a "novel" coronavirus. The reason it has been labeled as "novel" is that it is new. While there have been similar viruses in the past such as SARS, MERS, and others, this one, in particular, is different enough from

anything else that we have seen that it is considered an entirely new virus. The problem with something new is that there is no known and accepted way to properly treat it. When you look at a virus like Influenza, there have been cases of Flu for generations. The last great pandemic was the Spanish Flu over 100 years ago. In that time we have developed vaccines, Tamiflu, treatments, and various other protocols to keep people alive, safe, and get them back to their lives. We have studied the Flu sufficiently enough that a majority of cases of patients with flu with mild, moderate, and even severe disease can be successfully managed. None of that experience applies to COVID-19. The antiviral medications, treatment protocols, and everything else we have used to manage the flu does not work with COVID-19. In time, as treatment protocols are developed, COVID-19 may become less dangerous and more successfully managed but the problem is that currently, there is no known treatment. There is no known antiviral, no known steroid, no known medications, vitamin, or lifestyle change that can guarantee an improvement in the course of illness... yet. That's the problem. There is no known treatment. If you catch COVID-19, for all intents and purposes, our ability to intervene and save your life is extremely limited. We treat the symptoms as they emerge, give oxygen when your short of breath, ventilate when you can't breathe on your own, but overall the course of illness you go through as a patient is unchanged and we do not know how to change that yet.

Why are people passing away from COVID-19?

COVID -19, is causing a multitude of effects that is causing fatalities. The actual statistics of which can be debated endlessly which one can see in the evening news, but suffice it to say, that it is generally considered more infectious, transmittable, and fatal than influenza. And influenza has claimed well over 50 million lives. This is a hard number to take at face value since medicine has progressed far since the time of the Spanish Flu, however it is still good to understand the numbers.

At the current state of our understanding of COVID-19 patients are dying from a variety of effects. COVID-19 has been found to cause respiratory failure, organ failure, blood clots, and a host of other effects. The exact mechanism in which it is doing this is not known and therefore the best way to treat and prevent it is likewise either unknown or currently not possible.

Let's start with the Blood clots, for some reason, COVID-19 is causing the blood to coagulate and form clots. These clots are presenting inside of organs, tissues, and various other places causing mass damage and organ failure. Currently, it is being proposed that patients coming into the hospital are placed on blood thinners to prevent these clots. However, this treatment is experimental. It is a proposed treatment that is being tried but not necessarily accepted yet. What this means is that they are giving it to patients in hospitals under the close scrutiny and observation a hospital can provide as opposed to in an outpatient primary care clinic.

Next, let's talk about Respiratory failure. Respiratory failure is essentially when a patient is unable to breathe. They take a breath but no matter how hard they try they cannot get oxygen into their bloodstream. Again, the problem is here is that we are not entirely clear on "how" it is doing this. Currently, our understanding is that it is causing what is known as a "cytokine storm". Cytokines are inflammatory markers that our bodies use to manage inflammation in the body. A cytokine storm is when these markers are released in such an abundance that the virus and normal tissue alike are destroyed in the process. Respiratory failure ensues as the normal structures of the lungs become obstructed, damaged, and destroyed. Here is where we see reports of the Dexamethasone in the news. Dexamethasone is what one might call a double-edged sword. It has one major effect - suppress the immune system. So in patients who are at risk of a cytokine storm, it is useful to suppress the immune system from creating the abnormal response that is proving fatal. However, it also the fact that you are suppressing the immune system means it is unable to properly fight the virus. There is a delicate balance of suppressing the potential for cytokine storm effect and actually inhibiting your body's ability to fight the virus.

This is why again, only hospitalized patients are receiving Steroid treatments, and to give it on an outpatient basis is proving more fatal than not getting treatment at all.

Why is Fort Collins shutting down again?

Our lovely town has seen an uptick in numbers over the past few weeks as numbers across the nation are exploding. For most of the past week, new cases across the nation have surpassed 100,000 per day. The past 3 days have been over 150,000 per day. (https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/us/) In addition to these numbers exploding across the nation, we have also seen an uptick in the number of hospitalizations. Last week I received an urgent message from the DORA medical board projecting overloading of our Intensive Care Units to treat severely sick patients. Current projections are suggesting that we will reach statewide ICU capacity by January 1st if no changes are made. What it means if ICU capacity is reached is that if you become seriously injured or ill, there would be no hospital in the state that could accept you. There would be no ventilator machines, no nurses, doctors, or other providers with the ability to help you. There is not an infinite supply, the resources are, unfortunately, limited. There would be nothing to do except hope for the best. To curb this potential scenario after advisement by the medical boards the local government has decided to upgrade "safer at home" to level 2 with further restrictions on gatherings and as of today shut down all grade levels in the Poudre school district to remote learning only. You might be asking, why shut down the school districts? It has become well known that by in large, the young and healthy are not as affected by COVID as other populations. To our current knowledge, this is absolutely the case. While children are not necessarily at risk to be a serious patient, they are super spreaders. By their nature, children share and spread more germs than any other population. And all children come home to their parents. The goal here is to reduce the caseload, to reduce the number of ICU admissions so that we do not reach capacity and let people suffer through COVID at home on their own. This measure, good or bad, is intended to "flatten the curve". That's all the mask-wearing, closures, and other measures governments around the world are for - is to reduce the number of cases at any given time to levels where we can maintain our access to hospitals and Intensive care units. Some countries, such as New Zealand have been able to control to the point of near-total elimination of COVID-19 through lockdowns. This unfortunately may not be possible at this point in the USA. Though it can be controlled if proper precautions are taken

# **Company Description**

Starlight Health is a Mobile Direct Primary Care that offers those who are fed up with the expense and inconvenience of the traditional medical system, a simple membership plan with no hidden fees, no long term contracts, and no surprises

Get direct access to your own personal provider who's there when you need it, where you want it and who can help you feel secure about your health at a price that's actually affordable. Join the Direct Primary Care revolution by scheduling a free consultation today.

We can come to you! We see our patients in the comfort of their own home, our office, or anywhere else in the immediate Fort Collins area.

## **Contact Details**

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Google Site: <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/starlighthealthdirectprimary/">https://sites.google.com/view/starlighthealthdirectprimary/</a>

Google Folder: <a href="https://mgyb.co/s/e02h8">https://mgyb.co/s/e02h8</a>

#### Recommended Resources

https://mgyb.co/s/Qnfb5

https://mgyb.co/s/fUd7k

https://mgyb.co/s/1Bupg

https://mgvb.co/s/1IKkv

https://mgyb.co/s/2tsZF

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https://mgyb.co/s/xIUmA

https://mgyb.co/s/4W57P

https://mgyb.co/s/FVblh

https://mgyb.co/s/W90q8

### **Recommended Profiles**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCviVuGvYHHaylqyEBpHZfgw/about

https://starlighthealth.blogspot.com/

https://starlightdpc.wordpress.com

https://en.gravatar.com/starlightdpc

https://starlighthealth.tumblr.com

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https://www.diigo.com/profile/starlighthealth

https://www.evernote.com/pub/susandshores/starlighthealth

https://getpocket.com/@starlighthealth

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1r2JLB4ToMzSnks\_t6AzvbQWwbbB9ODFs?usp=sharing

https://1drv.ms/u/s!AkXmvAhGmcLXa9jJDnhcsRWzdSs?e=uBVKZd

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https://www.instapaper.com/p/starlighthealth

https://disgus.com/by/starlighthealth

https://paper.li/oZBuXdyvQcBQHXNifLy0m#/

https://www.facebook.com/StarlightDPC

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