Bug Watch

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Late Breaker: The number of COVID-19 cases at CHCO has increased over the past two weeks. Similarly, our test positivity rate has increased from 6.8% to 8.0% over the past two weeks. Our data mirror what is being reported throughout the state of Colorado. Similar to the experience in Europe, there are growing concerns about a coming “fourth wave” of COVID-19 in the US, particularly in the upper Midwest and Northeast. The CDC now estimates that over half of the COVID-19 cases in the US are now due to the B.1.1.7 (UK) variant strain which is 50% more transmissible than the wild-type strain and likely more virulent. Importantly, all of the important variants of concern have now been detected in Colorado, including the P.1 (Brazil) variant which was recently found in several residents in Boulder County (Please reference 4/13/21 HAN P.1 Variant). Now more than ever it is important to continue wearing masks, social distancing and performing hand hygiene.