

# Columbine Patio Homes Happenings



MAY 2025

Torino Circle  
Fort Collins, CO  
**970-490-1000**

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
Andrew Baker

**OFFICE  
MANAGER**  
Sierra Reilly

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES  
DIRECTOR**  
Carlos Medina

**MAINTENANCE  
ASSISTANT**  
Samuel Medina

## MEET OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER, SIERRA REILLY!

Sierra Reilly is originally from Bellevue, Washington, and has called Colorado home for nearly three years. She graduated from Colorado State University in 2023 with a degree in Journalism and Media Communications, along with minors in Business Administration and Creative Writing.

Outside of work, Sierra enjoys spending time with her beloved animals or getting lost in a good book. She shares her life with a retired racehorse named Atlas, a golden retriever named Kenai, and two cats, Read and Fox. A first-degree black belt in Taekwondo, Sierra has been practicing martial arts since the age of four and spent nine years as an instructor, teaching both children and adults before relocating to Colorado.

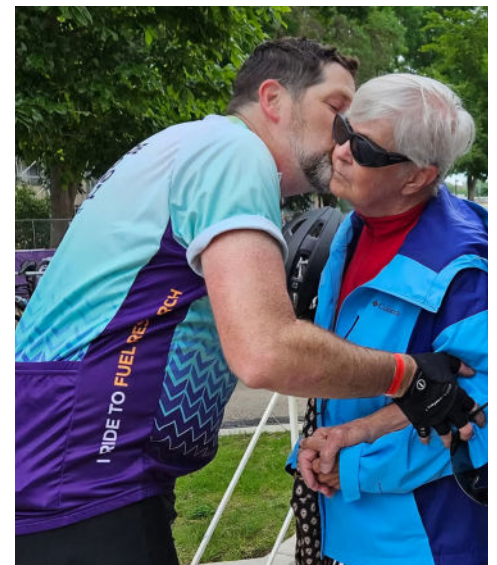


For the past year, Sierra has been part of the team at The Wexford, and she is now excited to join The Worthington and Columbine Patio Homes as Office Manager. Her passion for working with seniors stems from the close bond she shared with her grandfather, who was her best friend and a constant presence throughout her childhood. The time she spent with him and his friends helped shape her appreciation for older generations.

Sierra is looking forward to making meaningful connections in her new role. She welcomes everyone to stop by the front desk and say hello—she's excited to get to know each and every one of you.

## RIDE TO END ALZHEIMER'S JUNE 8TH, 2025

**On Sunday, June 8th**, my father and I will be riding in the Ride To End Alzheimer's Colorado. This year is special because, as many of you know, instead of riding In Honor of we are now riding *In Memory of Linda Baker*. If you would like to give to the Ride, in particular, Team HiYa Toots, there is a QR code below. You may also go to [act.alz.org/goto/hiyatoots](https://act.alz.org/goto/hiyatoots) OR you may pick up donation forms at the Worthington Front Desk. Together, we can all help in the fight to cure Alzheimer's Disease.



*Thank you from the bottom  
of our hearts, The Baker Family*



MEET SANDY AND JACK REED



Sandy was born in the small oil town of Whittier, California, where her father worked as a chemical engineer for Union Oil and her mother was fortunate to be a stay-at-home mom to Sandy and her two sisters. She spent her school years in Orcutt and later graduated from Santa Maria High School before continuing her education at Allan Hancock College. Sandy’s early years were filled with family, animals, and adventures on the ranch—experiences that helped shape a life built on similar values.

Jack was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and at age five, he and his family—his parents and younger brother, Jim—packed up a borrowed car, \$100 in cash, and a dream for a better life in what they called the “promised land” of California. They settled in Pismo Beach, where his parents opened a jewelry store that they successfully ran for over 40 years. Jack attended school in Pismo and high school in Arroyo Grande, eventually enrolling at Allan Hancock College—where he met the love of his life, Sandy Sheldon.

Their time at Hancock was full of great memories. Jack played football and baseball while studying a pre-med curriculum in preparation for pharmacy school at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. During his time on the field, he had the privilege of playing under a young coach named John Madden—an experience highlighted by two standout seasons, 18 wins, and two junior college bowl game appearances. Sandy was always in the stands, cheering him on as his biggest fan.

After completing their studies at Hancock, their paths took them to different parts of California—Jack to UOP for pharmacy school and Sandy to San Francisco, where she attended Dental Assistant School and enjoyed life in the Bay Area. Throughout those years, Sandy remained Jack’s biggest supporter. After a three-year courtship, they married in August of 1963—and this year, they celebrate an incredible 62 years of marriage.

Over the next six years, Jack and Sandy welcomed three children, who quickly became the center of their lives. With pharmacy school complete and their young family growing, they first settled in Grass Valley before their love for the mountains led them to Quincy, California—a small town nestled in the Sierra Nevada with just 3,000 residents.

There, Jack fulfilled his dream of owning a pharmacy, and together they raised their children in a close-knit community that shared their small-town values.

Both Sandy and Jack immersed themselves in community life from the start. As a family, they were deeply involved in St. John’s Catholic Church, 4-H, the swim team, and baseball.

They loved skiing—both water and snow—and looked forward to annual ski trips in the Sierras. Jack was active in the Elks, Rotary International, and Lions Club, while Sandy dedicated her time to Emblem Club and the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. Their passion for volunteering has spanned over 50 years, creating lasting impacts and cherished memories—like Jack’s years coaching baseball at every level and Sandy’s leadership in the 4-H Livestock Auction Committee, where she was known for her warmth and dedication.

Eventually, they semi-retired and relocated to Colorado from Sonora, California, to be closer to their children and grandchildren. For over 20 years, they made their home in the Huntington Hills neighborhood of Fort Collins. There, they became active members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, where Sandy served as the Religious Education Secretary, taught CCD, and led the Christmas Giving Tree project for 15 years. Jack continued working as a retail pharmacist and coached baseball at Fossil Ridge before they both transitioned into full retirement.

Travel has always been a passion for them—they’ve proudly visited all 50 states, most U.S. national parks, Canada, and numerous destinations in Europe and the Caribbean. They also spent many joyful years traveling with their RV group and playing golf together, both locally and abroad.

Their move to Fort Collins over 25 years ago has been an incredible chapter, filled with treasured moments shared with their children—Patti, Jacki, and Mike—and their growing family of eight grandchildren and now three great-grandchildren. They’ve loved watching their family grow, celebrating life’s milestones, and gathering for Sunday dinners for many, many years.

Now happily settled on Torino Circle, Sandy and Jack continue to enjoy their community, the friendships they’ve made, and the joy of porch visits—everyone is welcome!

THE ORIGIN OF “HIYA-TOOTS”

Linda Baker passed away on March 21st, 2025, at the age of 77, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer’s Disease. A devoted wife, mother, friend, and compassionate geriatric nurse, Linda dedicated her life to caring for others. Her diagnosis came just as she was beginning a well-earned retirement, a time she had hoped to spend exploring new adventures and deeper moments with loved ones.

Linda’s journey began in an orphanage, where she spent the first five years of her life before being adopted by her loving parents. In a touching effort to make her feel at home, her mother invented a magical tradition — hiding small treasures around

the house from a whimsical, imaginary friend named Hi-Ya Toots. From those early days, a family tradition was born: every Christmas, Linda—endearingly called “Linna Belle”—would find a gift under the tree from Hi-Ya Toots. This gesture became a treasured symbol of love, comfort, and imagination, and has remained part of the family’s holiday celebration ever since.

Linda’s warmth, humor, and unwavering kindness left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know her. She is deeply missed by all who loved her.

**Please donate or ride with us in order to help fight this horrible disease.**

MAY HOLIDAYS, DATES & FACTS:

- May 1 – Global Love Day**  
An international observance promoting unity and unconditional love among people worldwide. Celebrated through community events and personal acts of kindness.
- May 3 – World Press Freedom Day**  
Highlights the importance of press freedom and the role of journalists in promoting democracy and human rights.
- May 5 – Cinco de Mayo**  
Commemorates Mexico's victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. In the U.S., it's a festive celebration of Mexican culture with parades, music, and traditional foods.
- May 11 – Mother’s Day**  
This annual observance honors mothers, grandmothers, and maternal figures, recognizing their love, care, and contributions to family and society.
- May 22 – Harvey Milk Day**  
Honors the life and legacy of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in California, and his contributions to LGBTQ+ rights.

- May 23 – World Turtle Day**  
Raises awareness about the conservation of turtles and tortoises and their habitats. Activities include educational programs and fundraising for wildlife protection.
- May 24 – National Scavenger Hunt Day**  
Encourages people to engage in scavenger hunts, promoting teamwork, problem-solving, and outdoor exploration.
- May 25 – Geek Pride Day**  
Celebrates all things geeky, from comic books and video games to science fiction and fantasy. Fans worldwide participate in themed events and discussions
- May 25 – Towel Day**  
Fans of Douglas Adams celebrate by carrying a towel, a tribute to his book The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, which humorously declares a towel as the most useful item in the universe.
- May 26 – Memorial Day**  
A U.S. federal holiday honoring the men and women who have died in military service. Observed with ceremonies, parades, and moments of remembrance.

**May 31 – World No Tobacco Day**  
Promotes awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and encourages individuals to quit smoking. Health organizations worldwide participate in campaigns and provide resources for cessation.



# WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

## NEW! PATIO HOMES ACTIVITY GROUPS

At the April Discussion Group, we learned the results of the recent activity interest survey distributed to all homes on the Circle. The activities garnering the most interest included an afternoon game group in a resident's home, a lunch group meeting at 11:30 at a local restaurant (many were suggested), a movie group (watching online movies followed by discussion) at a resident's home, a men's book club, and a local events group.

All groups will meet monthly. We are in the process of forming the games and lunch groups as well as the men's book club and will add a movie group and local events group in the future.

For those unable to attend the discussion group on April 14 who would like to participate in the lunch group, please email Ellie Aronow (bearonow@msn.com).

If you want to join the afternoon game group, please email Katie Fletcher (vakfletch16@gmail.com).

If interested in the men's book club, please see Bob Clark's article elsewhere in this newsletter.

*We welcome your participation!*

## MAH JONGG GROUP FORMING

Would you be interested in learning and playing?  
We are forming a group!

**Contact us for more information:**

**Judy Putnam**  
839 Torino  
judy.putnam60@gmail.com  
830-333-3171  
or  
**Michele McClellan**  
833 Torino Cir.  
chaiteam3@gmail.com  
970-218-5026



## MAHJONGG!!

In between each round, you have a pause, where you are shuffling the tiles, or 'washing' the tiles. It's just the right time to have a little conversation. The tempo is perfect for building new relationships or enlivening current ones. Consistent interaction, even without deep conversations, builds lasting relationships in a new community or strengthens existing ones.

Even though this game does not involve physical prowess, it certainly gives the mind a healthy workout. Mah jongg uses the same brain power as chess, though it has added visual and tactile appeal.

Mah jongg helps us sustain our health in two important ways as we age: The friendships we develop decrease the loneliness that can cut years from our lives. And this brainy sport may help keep us sharp. According to an October 2021 report in Market Business News, studies show that doctors recommend mah-jongg to older adults to help maintain good brain health and improve memory skills.

One must concentrate intensely to remember which suits and number sequences create the excitement of a winning hand, a feat achievable even for a novice. Increased playtime improves your speed at categorizing and adjusting tiles mid-game. Besides being stimulating, socially and cerebrally, Mah-jongg is fun mastering a new skill.

**Mah jongg reminds me:** If one strategy doesn't work you quickly try another, depending on your hand. Isn't that what success in life is about?

**From Yassky, B. (2023).**

**"The many benefits of playing Mah-jongg":** Here is why you may want to learn the game today"

The Ethel 9/15/2023 <https://www.aarpethel.com/lifestyle/the-many-benefits-of-playing-mah-jongg>

## TORINO SHARING LIBRARY

Thank you to all who donate books for the sharing library and all the Torino Circle residents who enjoy reading the varied selections! A new addition to the library book box is a rack on the side to hold magazines that our residents might be willing to share after they've finished reading them. Bob Clark will monitor the rack to make sure it stays neat and appropriately current.

*Your Library Stewards,*  
**Kathy and Dan Wendland**

Our current Stewards for the library are Dan & Kathy Wendland #827. **Contact them at 970-377-1235** with any, contributions, questions or concerns. Thank you, Dan & Kathy!

## THIS MONTH WITH CHAPLAIN REBECCA MCFEE!

Our Chaplain, Rebecca, will be with us on numerous occasions this month for various reasons. First, on Tuesdays she will be here for Hymn sing at 11am in the Townhall. She will also continue her Great Courses series on Thursdays all month.

This month the great course series will be the Native American of North America. Using the 30 minutes videos from the Great Courses, you will explore the history of Native North Americans.

## THE TOPICS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**May 1st:** The Seven Years War  
**May 8th:** The American Revolution  
**May 22nd:** Indian Removal: The Trail of Tears  
**May 29th:** Native Resistance of 1850-1870

The series will be presented **every Thursday in May from 2:30 – 3:30pm in the Worthington Activity Room.** The series will continue into June with additional topics.

## HYMN SING

Come join our Chaplain, Rebecca McFee, **every Tuesday at 11am for Hymn Sing and scripture in the Worthington Town Hall.** All are welcome!

## ROLLERS & STROLLERS

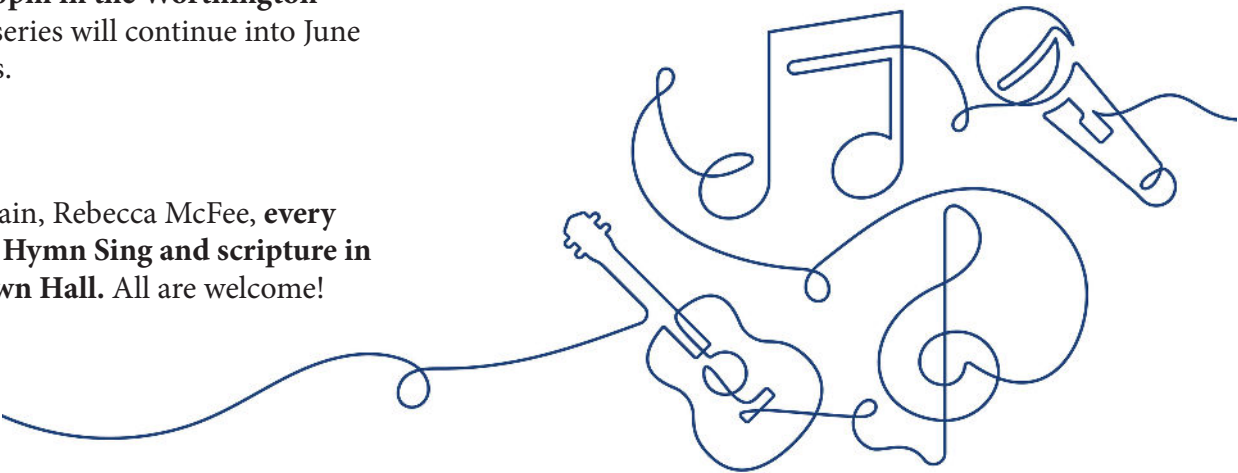
Join the patio home residents every Wednesday at 10am as they "Roll 'n Stroll" around the circle. A great way to get some fresh air and connect with your neighbors. We will walk throughout the Winter months, always weather permitting.

## JIM COLLINSON TALK: PROOF OF CONTINENTAL DRIFT

**Jim Collinson will be here on Monday, May 5th at 11am** to present a talk entitled, "Proof of Continental Drift". Jim will explain the following, "The greatest breakdown in earth science since Darwinian evolution (1859) was in the 1960s when the theory of continental drift was accepted. It was proposed in 1915 by Alfred Wagner from Germany. The theory, supported by a few earth scientists in South Africa, Brazil and Australia was mostly dismissed in North America and Europe. The Scott expedition (1910-1913) in Antarctica found evidence supporting the theory but didn't recognize its importance. A lack of support was because a mechanism for moving continents could not be found. Ocean basins were thought to be permanent features. In the 1960s, the theory of plate tectonics and fossil finds in Antarctica finally convinced the earth scientists that the continents were mobile and had once coalesced to form a single land mass (Pangea)."

## SENIOR SERENADERS

Please join the Senior singing group, the Senior Serenaders, for an early morning singing program. **The Serenaders will be here on Wednesday, May 7th at 10:30am in the dining room** for a lovely Spring sing. You don't want to miss this large group of talented singers who enjoy coming to entertain you.





GUEST SPEAKER: NATURALIST KEVIN COOK

Join Kevin for the 5th installment of his nature series **on May 8th at 10am in the Worthington Activity Room**. This year’s theme Colography: The Nitty-Gritty Colorado is a fun and unique way to look at Colorado history and nature mixed. In May, Kevin will talk about Landscapes and Waterscapes. Kevin says, “Though defined as a single place, Colorado sprawls across three landforms and textures them with hills and mountains, canyons, and valleys. Water standing as lakes and reservoirs or flowing as creeks and rivers accents the land. Landscapes and waterscapes make Colorado more than just one place.” **Sign-up required! Call 970-490-1000.**

DECIPHERING HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

**Please join us on Thursday, May 8th & 22nd at 11am in the Worthington Activities Room.** Denise, Activity Director at Worthington, is starting a workshop where she and residents will be deciphering and figuring out what historical documents say. The US National archives is asking for help in deciphering thousands of cursive written documents dating back to the civil war and beyond. Computer programs have failed to correctly translate these documents properly since there is so much diversity in handwriting. Therefore, they need human eyes to do it, especially older adults who are better versed in the art.

MAJORIE MORNINGSTAR: A PEEK AT PERU

Once again Marjorie will join us **at The Worthington for a travelogue on Friday, May 9th at 2:30 pm in the Worthington Activity Room**. This time, she will be taking you to the wonderful country of Peru. Marjorie combines her own photos and experiences along with known history, geography, and trivia from the area. It’s always a fascinating presentation. **Sign-up required! Call 970-490-1000.**



TORINO CIRCLE DISCUSSION GROUP

**Please join us Monday, May 12th at 10am for our monthly Discussion Group!**  
**Topic:** Water  
**Hostess:** Victoria Benson  
**Address:** 817 Torino Circle  
**Phone:** 302-593-2286

GUEST SPEAKER: ONCE A UPON A YEAR WITH JIM WILLARD

Jim Willard will be coming back this year to do his, Once Upon a Year series. **He will be visiting us on Thursday, May 15th at 11am** for his program, “Once a Upon a Year”. In this program, Jim will be visiting years gone by and talking about what happened in the world, in culture, in politics, in music and entertainment. It will be a fun walk in the past. Come and check out the fun. This event is very popular, so please sign up! **Sign-ups are required! Call 970-490-1000.**

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Did you know that the Worthington holds a Blood Pressure Clinic run by Columbine Nurses and CNAs every third Friday of each month from 10am to 11am? This is a free service and open to our patio home residents. **Next clinic is Friday, May 16th, in the Worthington Galleria Coffee Shop.**

THE TORINO CIRCLE WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB

**On Monday, May 19, 2025, at 10:00am, our group will be meeting at the home of Carol Herbert (#862).** Carol will lead our discussion of three books: Sing Unburied Sing, Salvage The Bones, and Men We Reaped. All three books are authored by Jasmyn Ward. Last year, our group had copies of the NYTimes “Best Books of The Last Century”. We read through all the titles and discovered that we had not read many of the books or heard of many of the authors. Jasmyn Ward had, not one, but three books on that list! Carol thought it would be interesting if our members chose to read one of Ward’s three books so that we know who Jasmyn Ward is, and what her books are about. This will certainly be a change from our usual discussions. Bring something to drink if you like. See you there!  
*Barbara Hagen and Carol Herbert, Co-Organizers*

If you are new to the community or would like to join our group but haven't read the book, join us anyway. We'd enjoy having you there.  
If there are any questions about joining, or anything else about the group, **please contact Barbara Hagen at (970) 219-9600 or e-mail her at bhagen6NT@gmail.com**

NEW! TORINO CIRCLE GENTLEMEN’S BOOK CLUB

**On Monday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m.,** the gentlemen of Torino Circle will meet to organize a book club at the home of the Clark’s (#863). Coffee and gathering will begin at 9:45 a.m. Please come and share your knowledge and wisdom.  
**Questions call Bob Clark at (970) 420-0318.** See you there!

VISIT FROM HORAN’S PETTING ZOO

**We are having a special visit from Horan’s Petting Zoo on Friday, May 23rd at 2:30pm on the Worthington Front Lawn.** Baby animals such as goats, ducks, chickens and maybe a cow or so will be here. Come on out and say hi!!!

CANCER IN PETS TALK WITH CSU DOCTOR AND SURGEON: STEVE WITHROW

**Join Dr. Withrow on Wednesday, May 21st at 2:30pm in the Worthington Activity Room** to listen to a talk about Cancer in pets and the research that takes place at our CSU Veterinary teaching hospital, which is just a hop, skip and a jump away from us. The research and care at this top-rated facility is fascinating. You don’t want to miss it! **Sign-up required! Call 970-490-1000.**  
**PS:** Dr. Withrow is Denise’s daughter’s father-in-law!

MONTHLY MEN’S BREAKFAST

**Join the men of our community for our Monthly Men’s Breakfast on Friday, May 23rd at 8:00am in the Worthington Private Dining Room.** Start your day right with good food, hot coffee, and great conversation. See you there! **Sign-up required! Call 970-490-1000.**

PALMER WITHROW: THE ADDITION TO THE CSU VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Are you curious about what is happening right down the street at the CSU Vet Hospital? Have you seen the large expansion happening there? Well, we have the answers for you! Please join Palmer Withrow and colleagues who are with the company in charge of this construction project. Come and find out about new things that are being added, what does this kind of project entails, how much teaching and hospital space is being added, etc.  
CSU Vet Hospital is striving to be the top Vet teaching hospital in the country and this project is helping them do it! **Please join us on Thursday, May 29th, at 10am in the Worthington Activity Room. Sign-up required! Call 970-490-1000.**  
**PS.** Palmer is Denise’s Son-in-law!



## MAINTENANCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maintenance can assist with hanging personal items as time allows and will provide basic hardware. Any hardware beyond what we consider basic (shelves, nuts, bolts, hangers, TV mount, etc.) for personal use should be supplied by the tenant. Grab bars are supplied and installed free of charge.

**REMINDER:** Maintenance is available on-call for emergent needs on weekends and after hours. Some examples of a maintenance emergency include air conditioning or heat not working, no hot water, water leaks or flooding, and egress-related issues.

**NOTE: If your smoke detector is alarming and saying “fire” or “carbon monoxide”, please contact 911, do not contact the front desk.**

Please do not put nails in any of the doors, woodwork, or cupboards. You may find which hooks are acceptable by checking with maintenance first.

Maintenance is not allowed to work on personal appliances, move tenants’ furniture, flip mattresses or work on residents’ automobiles or electric scooters.

## MAINTENANCE REMINDERS AND NOTICES:

We are using a new Maintenance Application to hopefully better serve you, **for all work orders please dial the Worthington Front Desk at 970-490-1000** so we can enter it into our system

**Remember, Pest control from EnviroPest occurs once a month on the 28th of each month.** This continues throughout the Winter months.

- Please remember to ask your guests and caregivers to park in the designated parking spaces at the East and West ends of the neighborhood.
- Please remember to call the Worthington for all work orders at 970-490-1000. We ask that you allow 24-48 hours for call and email responses from Andrew.
- Furnace filters are on a 6-month cycle and will be replaced accordingly, if you notice a large build-up of dust around the vents, please give us a call.
- For a maintenance request or any further questions, call The Worthington front desk at (970) 490-1000.

**For all maintenance requests, concerns, complaints, or any further questions, please call The Worthington front desk at (970) 490-1000.**

**Columbine Patio Homes is dedicated to preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).** The primary source of information for prevention and management is found on the Centers for Disease Control and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment websites. Social distancing means keeping a physical distance between yourself and others. The CDC recommends a distance of at least 6 feet to prevent the spread of germs. Thank you for helping to keep our community healthy and safe. Please call the Worthington front desk if you are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19.