



UCSF Health COVID-19

August 28, 2020

TOWN HALLS

In case you missed our recent town halls, following are links:

August 20: [Comprehensive Parnassus Heights Plan](#) including the new hospital at the UCSF Helen Diller Medical Center at Parnassus Heights

August 21: [Anti-racism](#) town hall focused on learners with Chancellor Hawgood, Vice Chancellor Navarro, and the deans of the professional schools and Graduate Division

August 25: [House Speaker Nancy Pelosi](#) discusses COVID-19 and the role of science in turbulent times

COVID-19 UPDATES

CDC TESTING GUIDANCE

As you may have seen in the media, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week issued [guidance](#) suggesting that people without symptoms, who have known exposure to COVID-positive individuals, may not need testing. UCSF Health is not changing its testing algorithms, nor will our local public health recommendations change.

- UCSF Health is continuing to provide COVID-19 testing for populations prioritized for testing in the 8/13/20 San Francisco Health Order. This includes anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection as well as asymptomatic persons who are close contacts* to someone with confirmed COVID-19 infection. SFPDH COVID-19 testing prioritization recommendations have not changed.
- UCSF Occupational Health Services will continue to provide COVID-19 testing for any employee who has been identified through contact tracing as having had at least a low risk exposure to someone with confirmed COVID-19 infection, in addition to any employee with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- The revised CDC wording does not recommend against testing asymptomatic persons who are close contacts to COVID-19 cases. Guidance on the CDC COVID-19 website continues to state that testing should be considered for all close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients.
- It's important to remember that anyone identified as a close contact and asked to quarantine at home by the public health officials or Occupational Health Services will need to maintain quarantine for the full 14 days following exposure even if post-exposure COVID-19 PCR results are negative. A negative test result only means that the virus was not detectable at the time of testing.

*In the SFPDH's [guidance document](#), close contact is defined as people in your home, your sex partners, and people who take care of you or who you take care of. Also considered close contacts are people who stayed within 6 feet of you for more than 15 minutes, or who had direct contact with your body fluids or secretions while they were not wearing a facemask, gown, and gloves.

FLU VACCINES STARTING NEXT TUESDAY

We will be rolling out influenza vaccines for health system staff starting Sept. 1, with the expectation of vaccinating all UCSF employees by Nov. 1, to meet the requirements of the UC executive order. There are a number of ways to obtain your vaccines:

- Nearly 170 nurses and other health care providers have volunteered to be flu deputies for their units. They will be offering flu shots throughout UCSF clinics and hospitals starting Sept. 1. To find your deputy, please visit the [Occupational Health Services \(OHS\) flu site](#), or ask your supervisor during a team huddle.

- You can also get a flu shot through one of the [OHS flu clinics](#) across UCSF clinical and campus sites starting Sept. 8; through your primary care provider or other health plan options; or at [OHS campus sites](#) starting Sept. 28.
- OHS has extended Flu Outreach clinic hours to cover night shift workers and a Saturday clinic for those working on the weekend, as well as clinics in our Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville and Brisbane sites.
- Please see our [Frequently Asked Questions](#), or contact flu@ucsf.edu for further questions. Some details, such as how to file a medical exemption, are still being finalized.

FLU SURVEY IS NOT FROM UC

We've learned that an outside market research firm, Consumer Evaluation & Insights, recently sent a survey about UC's flu vaccination policy to a number of UC faculty and staff with the subject line "Share your opinion on the UC Flu Vaccine requirement." **Please be aware this survey was not authorized or commissioned by UC, and you are under no obligation to complete it.** Additionally, because data from this survey is being collected by an external organization, UC cannot make any assurances regarding the use, privacy or security of any information you provide.

PILOT: EXPEDITED RETURN TO WORK LETTERS

Occupational Health Services (OHS) is piloting a new workflow that offers an automated process to expedite employees' return to work after they test negative for COVID-19. The new workflow will send employees with negative COVID-19 test results a link to a self-survey, which will automatically generate a return to work letter. This process will eliminate, for most employees, the current need for phone calls with OHS for a return to work letter. There is a projected go-live roll out by the end of September with implementation of our new contact tracing software.

IN THE NEWS

UCSF Public Affairs focused its weekly media briefing this week on experts' concerns about a fall surge of influenza and COVID-19. The briefing generated several news stories, including coverage in both ABC7 and FOX News. The UCSF web site also has posted a story quoting UCSF experts on the benefits of masks in protecting the wearer, not just people around them.

- [CA medical experts urge people to get flu shot to avoid 'twindemic' of COVID-19, influenza](#), KGO TV
- [Health experts warn about flu season making the fight against COVID-19 more difficult](#), FOX40 TV
- [One more reason to wear a mask: You'll get less sick](#), UCSF.edu

FREQUENTLY USED LINKS

View COVID-19 data dashboards: UCSF Health [COVID-19 Enterprise Dashboard](#) ; Hopkins [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) (for World, USA and CA #s); SF Chronicle [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) (CA, County and SF#s)
 Occupational Health Services: Continue to work/return to work [detailed staff guidelines](#) and [simple sheet](#); COVID-19 Hotline 415.514.7328; [COVID+ Employees FAQs](#)
[UCSF Health COVID19 Infection Prevention Website](#)
<https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/>
[COVID PPE Guidance](#)
[UCSF Town Halls](#)
[Infectious Disease Digests](#)
[Dept of Medicine COVID Grand Rounds](#)
[Emotional Health and Well-Being](#)
[BCH SF Clinical Digests](#)

For questions related to this newsletter, please email COVID19UCSFHealth@ucsf.edu
