



UCSF Health COVID-19

September 11, 2020

TOWN HALLS

You can watch Tuesday's UCSF Health town hall [HERE](#). It includes updates on clinical trials, flu vaccinations and space assessments for alternative break areas.

COVID-19 UPDATES

FLU VACCINATIONS

There was a request for slides from Tuesday's town hall about where to get flu vaccinations. You can find them [HERE](#).

Our influenza vaccination campaign is in full force, with the expectation of vaccinating all UCSF employees by November 1st. 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. 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.
- Through your primary care provider or other health plan options.
- 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.

If you would like an RN/LVN in your department to become a flu deputy (staff members approved to give flu vaccination to UCSF staff and faculty), please have them reach out to FLU@UCSF.edu for more details.

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. For questions regarding the UC Flu Vaccination Policy, you may visit <https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/faqs/flu-policy> or contact FLU@UCSF.EDU.

NEW PPE AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING OBSERVATIONS BEGIN

We have greatly improved the safety culture for employees, patients and visitors at UCSF Health by performing hand hygiene and PPE observations. We want to extend these best practices to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, especially among our health care workers. Starting next week, our more than 150 observers will now include behavioral observations and coaching to reinforce physical distancing, mask wearing and eye protection in our units and the newly-set-up break, team and conference spaces.

The behaviors we now all need to exercise at work and at home are new, and this can be challenging. We hope to help you remember how important it is to wear your PPE, including masks and eye protection, when you are not just around patients but also each other. The data we collect will be useful to understand where there may be obstacles to wearing PPE and target our actions. We'll also reinforce the importance of wearing PPE with more signage and messages in the coming weeks.

EYE PROTECTION - WHEN, WHERE AND WHAT KIND

As we have more experience with COVID-19, we continue to refine our guidance to keep you and our patients safe. Following is important information about eye protection.

When do I need to wear eye protection and what kind should I wear?

Eye shields, face shields, or safety glasses should be worn in all direct, close patient encounters in the inpatient and ambulatory clinical settings. We also recommend you wear eye protection with your mask around your colleagues who are unmasked, such as when they are eating and when they and others are not physically distanced. Wearing your mask and eye protection, and maintaining six feet of distancing, around someone who is unmasked puts you at a lower level risk of transmission of COVID-19 and possible quarantine if a colleague tests positive for COVID-19.

Do we all need to order our own eye protection, or is it provided in the patient care areas?

Eye shields, safety glasses and face shields are provided to patient care areas through Materiel Services. You can find guidelines about eye protection [HERE](#).

Can I wear my own eye protection?

Yes, if it meets the safety eyewear requirements to fit close to the face and wrap around the side of the head, similar to the eye shields.

Do regular eyeglasses count as eye protection in the hospital?

Regular eyeglasses do not count as safety glasses because they don't provide a tight fit nor are they wide enough. Please wear your safety glasses over your regular glasses with your mask.

REMINDER**GUIDE FOR COMMUNICATING WITH PATIENTS ABOUT COVID-19**

The UCSF Health Patient Communications Committee has developed a resource guide to help you communicate consistently with patients about COVID-19 and how we are ensuring their safety. It includes key messages to share with patients, links to videos – including a tour of our facilities – and our website, as well as other resources available for patient communications. Please click [HERE](#) to access the guide.

IN THE NEWS

- Peter Chin-Hong, MD, talked with [NBC Bay Area news](#) about UCSF's participation in the Phase 3 trial for Oxford University's AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine set to begin later this month.
- Joel Ernst, MD answers questions about [how vaccine development works](#) and why vaccines are important for COVID-19.
- Susan Buchbinder, MD and George Rutherford, MD are quoted in this *SF Chronicle* story (story accessible to subscribers) about the dangers of [fast-forwarding vaccine developments](#).

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
