



UCSF Health COVID-19

September 18, 2020

TOWN HALLS

There will be no UCSF Health Town Hall next week.

The **UCSF COVID-19 Response Town Hall** on Friday, September 25 will focus on the **Childcare and Dependent Care Task Force Report** with Elizabeth Ozer, Director of Research and Faculty Equity Advisors, Office of Diversity & Outreach and Chair of UC Systemwide Committee on the Status of Women and Laura Ishkanian, Associate Director of Family Services, Campus Life Services. Nancy Duranteau, Chief Learning Officer, Learning & Organization Development, will share the results from the **Pulse Survey Results and Action Plan**. The link to this event will be shared next week in a future bulletin.

COVID-19 UPDATES

EXPANDED N95 USE

In order to improve the safety of our health care workers, we are expanding the use of N95s for the care of all patients receiving aerosol generating procedures (AGPs). **As of yesterday**, we are recommending use of N95 respirators (or PAPRs) for all providers and staff present while patients receive an AGP, including patients who have a negative pre-procedure COVID-19 PCR test and no ongoing concern for this infection (e.g. not on Novel Respiratory Isolation).

Staff who need to enter the room after an AGP and before 99% air turnover has occurred also should don an N95 respirator or PAPR to complete necessary tasks (e.g. cleaning, supply restock, room set-up) in order to facilitate subsequent cases. For most patient rooms, 99% air turnover occurs after one hour. For some procedural rooms/areas, the time is shorter.

This is in addition to required use of eye protection.

While COVID-19 PCR tests are very accurate and have very low false negative rates, it's possible for some patients to have acquired COVID-19 infection but to have a negative pre-procedure PCR result because they are early in their 14-day incubation period at the time of testing. Although each procedure performed in a patient with a recently negative test carries an extremely small risk of COVID exposure, the cumulative risk climbs over time for those who perform many procedures. You can read more in this [FAQ](#) including guidance on room turnover times, surgery, what qualifies as an AGP, and algorithms for inpatient and outpatient adults, and for pediatrics.

EMPLOYEE ACCESS POINTS TO PARNASSUS HOSPITAL

Starting next week we will be asking **all staff to only enter through the ED entrance**. Due to the high traffic of patients and visitors in the main lobby, we must reserve this space to safely accommodate the screening and security staff, as well as visitors and patients.

PPE AND SCREENING ARE FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Our screening checkpoints and PPE requirements are not just for our patients' safety – they also are for you. Our screening and security teams are reporting inappropriate and disappointing behavior from a number of employees when entering our buildings for work.

Behaviors include staff refusing to show their badge or changing from a face covering to a universal mask, challenging why they are being screened, and taking multiple masks at one time. Many exchanges between staff and screeners have taken place in front of patients and visitors.

These behaviors are not aligned with our PRIDE values nor do they show respect for your colleagues who are simply doing their job to keep you safe. Please practice kindness and patience as we deal with COVID-19 together. The steps we are requiring for your safety are minimal and not optional.

- Show your digital screening pass (if none done prior, the screener asks 3 questions);
- Show your badge;
- Take a daily sticker and place it on badge (remove sticker at the end of the day; keeping multiple colored stickers on your badge to bypass the screeners is not acceptable);
- Take one mask (replace your cloth one with new surgical mask);
- Gel your hands;
- Proceed to work.

UPDATES FROM OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Occupational Health Flu Outreach Clinics are now live! Click [here](#) to find a time and location convenient for you.
- [Travel Guidance](#) was recently updated in response to updates from CDC and UCOP. All UCSF returnees from international travel are required to be interviewed by OHS and will quarantine at home for 14 days from your return date, per UCSF policy. Working from home, if available and approved by your supervisor, may be available, but you are restricted from any UCSF work site for 14 days. UCOP continues to allow exceptions to 14-day quarantine for essential health care delivery staff without symptoms, particularly in times of limited staff availability, but these exceptions need OHS approval. Those returning from domestic travel who have been in a high-risk situation can call the OHS COVID-19 Hotline for further evaluation.
- Visit the [COVID-19 Occupational Health webpage](#) for the latest Return-to-Work guidelines, employee FAQ document, recent data on employee COVID-19 screening and testing, and an updated summary of definitions for low, medium, and high risk exposures.
- The COVID-19 Hotline has made adjustments to its employee triage process to streamline access to COVID testing. Effective September 16th, all employee testing ordered by Occupational Health or the COVID-19 Hotline will be a separate process from clinical triage and evaluation. Employees will continue to have access to clinical advice and medical care appointments through UCSF Health, but the triage for these services will be separate from COVID testing. If medical care is recommended, employees should seek care from a provider covered by their health plan. All visits with a health care provider (including in-person or video visits with the UCSF Respiratory Screening Center -- RSC) are billed to an employee's insurance.

IN THE NEWS

- This [NY Times article](#) quotes Monica Gandhi, MD, about the idea of masks exposing the wearer to just enough of the coronavirus to spark a protective immune response.
- This [CNN story](#) quotes Michael Matthay, MD about having COVID-19 and the flu at the same time.

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
