



**October 29, 2020 Clinical Update**

**In Today’s Newsletter:**

- **Major updates to Inpatient Visitor Policy**
- **Remdesivir no longer requires Emergency Use Authorization (age 12+)**
- **New Guidelines for Inpatient and Outpatient Tracheostomy and Laryngostoma patient care**
- **How to get expedited COVID testing for patients**
- **Preventing occupational spread of COVID**
- **Use of outside COVID lab test results**
- **Update to Surface Disinfectant Product (Mount Zion Only)**

**Today’s Status:**

	Inpatient COVID19 + Patients	Asymptomatic Case Positivity (7 day moving average)	Symptomatic Case Positivity (7 day moving average)	COVID Surge Status
UCSF Health	17	0.31%	3.22%	Green
ZSFG	4			

Currently, San Francisco remains at Level 2 *Low* Alert with 3.6 new cases per 100,000 population, equal to about 32 new cases daily in San Francisco. The goal is to get below 1.8 per 100, 000. More San Francisco COVID19 public health indicators are available via this [SFPDH Website](#).

**What’s new to the Inpatient Visitor Policy?**

The Inpatient Visitor Exception Committee meets regularly to review current successes and challenges to our visitor policy. They regularly review the numbers and types of visitor requests and adapt the policy to best meet the needs of our patients and the safety of our staff. In listening to the concerns of our front-line providers, **effective November 9<sup>th</sup>**, the changes below will be made to our Inpatient Visitor Policy.

**Changes to General Visitation:** The one visitor allowed to all patients in the inpatient setting

- **Expanded Hours:** Visiting Hours will be expanded to 10AM – 8PM.
- For general **visitors with cognitive or physical disabilities** for whom a visit may present a safety concern, an additional visitor to serve as an escort will be approved upon request.
- **Minors Visiting:** Inpatients at the Pediatric and Adult Hospitals and Birth Center who stay longer than two weeks can request a scheduled visit by their minor dependents once per week, as long as those minors are at least 5 years of age and able to comply with masking and socially distancing policies.

- **Chaplain Visitation:** For patients requesting outside spiritual care services for specific services that can only be provided in person, a single chaplain may be allowed in addition to the essential visitor upon approval by UCSF Spiritual Care Services.

**Changes to Necessary Visitation:** Visitor exceptions that allow for increased numbers and hours for patients with a specific caregiving need

- **Requests for necessary visitation** should be made by the attending to the unit director, and when appropriate in partnership with the critical care attending.
- **Fetal demise:** Adult and minor patients who have experienced a fetal demise, whether due to ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, or still birth during their hospitalization are allowed to have a one visitor stay overnight.
- **Definition of End of Life (EOL):** A patient at the end of life will now be defined as a patient expected to survive less than 7 days, a patient on comfort care **or** with a challenging disposition to hospice as their next level of care. This definition does not include patients undergoing a high risk procedure or all those with a terminal diagnosis or who are critically ill who may survive until discharge. Imminent death is defined as patients expected to pass away within 12 hours.
- **Visitors at EOL:** Adult Patients who meet this definition of EOL will be allowed 8 total visitors on their exception list, of which two can be at the bedside at one time. When death is imminent, four visitors may be allowed at the bedside by request depending on the size of the room and patient acuity.

**Requests for Visitors outside of those allowed by the policy**

- **Requests for visitors** to be added to the list should be directed to the unit staff. Bedside nurses can enter a single General Visitor, all other requests should be directed to unit directors/ hospital supervisor depending on time of day.
- **Outside of policy requests:** Unit directors can approve any visitors specifically outlined under the policy, however to ensure equity and transparency, all requests outside of the policy should be submitted to the [visitor escalation committee](#), and will be reviewed by a team of physicians, nurses and social workers familiar with the policy the same business day.

For the full visitor policy, please go to <https://tiny.ucsf.edu/UCSFVisitors>

**What is changing with remdesivir prescribing?**

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Remdesivir prescribing for hospitalized patients no longer requires Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) paperwork as a result of FDA approval of the drug for patients age 12 and up. Clinicians will still need Infectious Disease Consultant approval in order to prescribe. The APeX orders are being updated to reflect this change. In the meantime, when asked if EUA paperwork was given to the patient, check “no,” and write in “FDA Approved” as the reason.

**What are the new guidelines for care of patients with Tracheostomy or Laryngostoma?**

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New guidelines have been developed for [Inpatient and Outpatient Tracheostomy and Laryngostoma patient care](#). This document provides guidance and clarification on what procedures are considered aerosol generating in this population and PPE and room recommendations.

We have also updated the [AGP/PPE table](#) to reflect these updates.

## How do we expedite testing for patients needing surgery/procedure/study in <24 hrs?

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The [COVID PCR testing guidance document](#) has been updated to reflect that patients needing surgery/procedure/study < 24 hrs should use the expedited COVID PCR testing pathway. Expedited testing pathways were also added for Mt Zion.

## How can we prevent spread of COVID in our work settings?

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1. **Remind patients to mask:** A common finding in clinical settings is that patients forget to don their masks when staff/providers enter the room. As you enter the room, a best practice is to introduce your entry into the room and respectfully ask the patient to place their mask as you enter.
2. **Eye Protection:** A second finding is that providers can forget to wear goggles when working with patients. Please be certain to keep eye protection on when seeing patients and remind your colleagues when you see them forget.
3. **Eating in break spaces:**
  - a. Best practice is to distance by 6 feet at all times, and especially when eating (i.e. move to a different space if needed).
  - b. Remember to replace masks as soon as eating is finished.
  - c. If space is constrained, and people cannot distance to eat, it's important that only one person be unmasked and eating at a time.

## What if my patient had a test at an outside COVID lab test?

- The following tests from outside labs are acceptable if done and resulted within the recommended time frame: reverse-transcriptase PCR (RT-PCR), PCR, nucleic acid amplification (NAA), non-Abbott ID Now nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), transcription-mediated amplification (TMA), and loop-mediated amplification (LAMP).
- Because of lower performance, antigen, Abbott ID now NAAT test, pooled PCR, point of care, or “presumptive” tests should not be accepted.
- Serology and antibody tests are not accepted for decision-making around infection control practices.

## Update to Surface Disinfectant Product (Mount Zion Only)

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The supply chain for surface disinfectants remains fluid, with monthly allocations to UCSF Health evolving. UCSF has procured an updated product distribution for Oxivir<sup>®</sup> TB wipes in a prepackaged cannister. The Oxivir<sup>®</sup> TB cannister will be available November 3, 2020 at the Mount Zion Campus. Clinical areas at the Mount Zion Campus will be introduced to the prepackaged Oxivir<sup>®</sup> TB wipes as the Oxivir<sup>®</sup> TB tub buckets expire. Refer to the [educational flyer](#) for more detail.

**What updates have been posted to the [HEIP site](#) since the last clinical update?**

Descriptive Title	New or Update	Category	Date Updated	Summary of Updates
<a href="#">Outpatient and Inpatient Tracheostomy/Laryngostoma Guidelines</a>	New	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	10/29/2020	This is a new ambulatory and inpatient guidance that provides information for the care of patients with tracheostomy/laryngostoma's during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<a href="#">Update to Surface Disinfectant Product Mount Zion Only</a>	New	Tip Sheet	10/28/2020	The supply chain for surface disinfectants remains fluid, with monthly allocations to UCSF Health evolving. UCSF has procured an updated product distribution for Oxivir® TB wipes in a prepackaged cannister. The Oxivir® TB cannister will be available November 3, 2020 at the Mount Zion Campus. Clinical areas at the Mount Zion Campus will be introduced to the prepackaged Oxivir® TB wipes as the Oxivir® TB tub buckets expire.
<a href="#">Guidance for Use of PPE for Aerosol Generating Procedures</a>	Update	Personal Protective Equipment	10/29/2020	Clarification about patients with tracheostomies/laryngostomas was added.
<a href="#">FAQs COVID-19 Asymptomatic Screening of Pediatric Patients</a>	Update	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	10/29/2020	Updating which tests are acceptable for preadmission/preprocedural tests
<a href="#">FAQs COVID-19 Screening of Adult Patients</a>	Update	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	10/28/2020	Updating which tests are acceptable for preadmission/preprocedural tests.
<a href="#">COVID-19 Testing Guidance</a>	Update	Control Plan and Testing	10/27/2020	The 'Expedited COVID PCR category' was updated in this COVID-19 testing guidance
<a href="#">UCSF Health COVID-19 Visitor Restrictions and Exemptions</a>	Update	Administrative Announcements and Workflows	10/26/2020	Updates to Visitor Hours, General Visitation and EOL definitions and policies
<a href="#">Adult ED and Inpatient Visitor Quick Guide</a>	Update	Administrative Announcements and Workflows	10/26/2020	Updates to allowed visitor restrictions and exceptions and new easy to understand format
<a href="#">Pediatrics ED and Inpatient Visitor Quick Guide</a>	Update	Administrative Announcements and Workflows	10/26/2020	Updates to allowed visitor exemptions.

**Frequently Used Links**

View COVID 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](#)

[UCSF Town Halls](#)

[Dept of Medicine COVID Grand Rounds](#)

[Emotional Health and Well-Being](#)

[Visitor Policy](#)

Daily Employee Health Screening: **Text "Screen" to: 83973** or [UCSF Online Health Screen](#)