



**Clinical Update**  
**1.7.21**

**In Today’s Issue:**

- **Expanded Visitor Restrictions**
- **Support for Patients and Families**
- **Expanded Employee Testing After Travel**
- **Patient Return to Care Clearance after COVID Diagnosis**
- **Vaccine Update**

**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	86	2.31%	12.5%	Red
ZSFG	55			Orange

At UCSF Health, our symptomatic test positivity rate has now increased to 17.7%. Our asymptomatic test positivity is at 2.3%. Currently, San Francisco remains at Level 4 High Alert with 30.4 new cases daily per 100,000 population. This is equal to about 264 new cases daily in San Francisco.

More San Francisco COVID19 public health indicators are available via this [SFPDH Website](#).

**Visitor Restrictions Expanded due to Red Surge Level**

---

Given the rise in cases of Coronavirus-19 in our community, UCSF is taking every precaution to protect the safety of our patients and staff. The following restrictions are now being implemented starting at 8PM Friday 1/8:

- General Visitation will STOP Friday 1/8/2021 at the end of visiting hours (8pm)
- Exception/Necessary Visitors will remain the SAME (eg: EOL, cognitive impairment, neurologic injury, delirium to reduce the risk of medical or clinical harm, teaching)
- End of Life visitors will be reduced to 4 TOTAL people
- All escalations and/or exceptions should be sent via request form to the Visitor Escalation Committee: <http://tiny.ucsf.edu/VisitorRequest>
- BCH Perioperative at Mission Bay has decreased the number of visitors in the Surgical Waiting Area (SWA) to 1 per patient
- BCH will keep 2 caregivers on the general visitor list with the ability to swap out 2 x/day. *This list does not change.* Change of caregiver now takes place in the lobby and not the patient room.

- Minor (age>5) visitation privileges for select patients in the birth center and BCH are on hold until further communication.
- Adult Perioperative: Mission Bay/Parnassus/Mt Zion have no visitors in Surgical Waiting Area (SWA)/Preop/PACU, including Device Representatives. Adult patients may be escorted to the SWA or other outpatient procedural areas but must leave and wait off site once the patient has been checked in. For those who have traveled from afar, visitor waiting areas are available at Parnassus Milberry Union and Mt. Zion at the Ida Café in the Women’s Center or the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room in the Osher Building.
- Planned Surgeries:
  - Outpatient Surgical Coordinators communicate updated visitor policy to patient/family
  - At the request of their primary surgeon, patients with significant concerns about continuing with planned surgery can be escalated to Visitor Exception Committee for review: <http://tiny.ucsf.edu/VisitorRequest>. Every effort will be made to approve exceptions within the same business day.
  - The committee has existing policies regarding granting visitors to ensure patient’s clinical needs are met, including acceptance of surgery
  - Granted requests will be communicated back to surgical coordinators and an exception list will be maintained with screeners at each site.
  - Patients who meet criteria for necessary visitation e.g. cognitive or physical limitations requiring escorts to SWA, can also use this process.
- Emergent Surgeries: With the scheduling of an “Immediate” or “Within 6 hour” emergent surgery, Patient Care Director for that Unit or the House Supervisor can approve a 24 hour visitor for the patient. Visitors will be added to the master list currently reviewed by the screeners, and then subsequently by the PACU RN.

The full visitor policy can be viewed at <https://tiny.ucsf.edu/UCSFVisitors>.

A quick guide for adult settings can be found at [Adult ED and Inpatient Visitor Quick Guide](#).

Any additional clarifications needed will be posted in tomorrow’s COVID general update.

## **What support do we have for patients during this challenging time?**

---

### **Spiritual Care**

We know this can be an extremely challenging time for our patients. UCSF Spiritual Care Services is available 24/7 onsite at Mission Bay and Parnassus, and available remotely for Mount Zion, to provide compassionate companionship, and inclusive emotional, existential, and spiritual support to patients, loved ones, and staff.

24/7 Contacts for Spiritual Care:

Mount Zion/Parnassus – 628-248-9664 (Voalte, Chaplain On-Call Parn)

Mission Bay/Other Locations – 415-476-9720 (Voalte, Chaplain On-Call MB)

### **Inpatient Video Navigator Program**

Patients and families may need extra assistance with technology, particularly when they are ill or concerned about their loved ones. iPads have been deployed to make video calls between patients and their loved ones through Zoom using the Virtual Visitor Experience. The Inpatient Video Navigator (IVN) is a UCSF staff member or qualified volunteer who will provide direct assistance in setting up the Zoom conference calls for patients and their friends/family members.

Please contact the IVN whenever a patient requires a Zoom call. You can learn more about how to contact the IVN through APeX in this tipsheet: [Inpatient Video Navigators \(PDF\)](#)

## **Expanded Employee COVID Testing After Travel**

---

To keep our employees, learners and patients as safe as possible, UCSF is expanding mandatory testing for on-site workers returning to UCSF after travel.

Effective immediately, UCSF, UCSF Health and Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland employees and learners resuming on-site work after return from travel outside the nine-county Bay Area or four-county Fresno area will **be required to complete three – rather than two – COVID-19 tests.**

- The first must be completed **on or before the day you return** to on-site work at UCSF.
- The second must be completed on **day three to four** after your first test.
- The third must be completed **day seven to nine** after your first test.

You may continue to work on-site while you wait for the results of your tests. To simplify the process, you will be able to pick up all test kits at once if you will be working on-site during the 10 days after returning from travel. You can find locations to pick up test kits [here](#).

The additional testing does not change current home quarantine and approval requirements for domestic travel (10-day quarantine when not at work) or international travel (14-day quarantine, although you may work if cleared by OHS).

Please remember that even with these expanded surveillance measures in place, UCSF continues to strongly recommend against all non-essential personal travel. Read more about our travel guidance [here](#) and our testing policies [here](#).

## **Updated Patient Return to Care Guidelines & COVID Recovered Clearance Letter**

---

UCSF Health has recently updated our [Discontinuing Isolation for Patients with COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#) for patients with COVID-19 based on the most recent CDC and SFDPH recommendations. According to these criteria, patients can attend ambulatory appointments after 20 days following symptom onset with COVID19 (or first positive test, if asymptomatic) and symptom improvement, including resolution of fever.

If you have a patient with an urgent upcoming appointment who was diagnosed with COVID within the past 20 days, some patients who meet clinical criteria can be cleared for care at 10 days post onset of illness. Any provider in the clinic can perform this clearance, but it is recommended that the provider who will be seeing the patient be involved in the clearance.

There is a COVID recovered clearance letter template available in APeX with information on the clinical criteria necessary for clearance. A provider tip sheet can be found at [Instructions to Access COVID-19 Recovered Clearance Letter – West Bay only](#) and clinical staff instructions at [Return to Care Instructions for Clinic Staff \(PDF\)](#) are available.

This letter is meant to be provided to patients who meet the criteria to show the lobby screeners when coming in for in-person appointments. After 20 days from illness onset and full symptom resolution, a clearance letter will no longer be

required for recovered patients. **Please note that this letter is currently only being accepted in UCSF West Bay clinical areas.**

## COVID Vaccine Update

---

### What is the status of our vaccine roll out?

UCSF Health continues to receive a steady supply of vaccine. With the Mission Hall vaccine location opening this week, we are now able to accommodate 10,000 vaccinations per week. The current status can be viewed on the [COVID vaccine dashboard](#). Currently, 71% (10,599 individuals) of combined groups 1Aa and 1Ab have received their first vaccinations, and 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccinations have begun this week.

### How do I know which vaccination group I am in?

The [vaccine prioritization chart](#) shows the categories of employees and the groups to which they are prioritized. Any employee can check their phase/group assignment for vaccination in the [HR Umbrella](#). After entering the link, log into My Access and click on the COVID tab to see your assignment. Any questions about group assignments should be directed to your manager who can request updates.

### Would serologic testing after the vaccine help us predict effectiveness of the vaccine?

No. Our in-house serologic test does not detect the spike protein antibodies which would be expected after vaccination. Our serologic assays do detect antibodies to the nucleocapsid, and these would be expected to be positive in the setting of previous COVID infection but not after vaccination. Based on this, serologic testing following vaccination to determine vaccine effectiveness is not recommended.

### 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="#">Instructions to Access COVID-19 Recovered Clearance Letter – West Bay only</a>	New	Tip Sheet	1/7/2021	Providers can use select clinical criteria to clear recovered patients for ambulatory visits after 10 days of COVID infection.
<a href="#">Return to Work After Travel</a>	New	Occupational Health Services	1/6/2021	
<a href="#">Expanded Testing After Travel</a>	New	Occupational Health Services	1/6/2021	Expansion of testing from 2->3 tests after travel.
<a href="#">COVID-19 Testing for the UCSF Community</a>	New	Occupational Health Services	1/6/2021	
<a href="#">Return to Care Instructions for Clinic Staff</a>	New	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	1/6/2021	This job aide is meant to be used with patients diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 20 days with an urgent upcoming appointment that may be able to be evaluated by a provider & cleared to return to care prior to the usual timeframe. This process is currently for UCSF West Bay clinical areas only.
<a href="#">COVID-19 Pediatric Treatment Guidelines</a>	New	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	12/11/2020	These guidelines are focused on specific antiviral, steroid and monoclonal antibody therapies for COVID-19 in pediatric patients."
<a href="#">Adult ED and Inpatient Visitor Quick Guide</a>	Update	Administrative Announcements and Workflows	1/7/2020	Given the rise in cases of Coronavirus-19 in our community, UCSF is taking every precaution to protect the safety of our patients and staff. Updated restrictions are now being implemented.

## **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](#)

[Emotional Health and Well-Being](#)

[Visitor Policy](#)

[COVID-19 Testing page](#)

[UCSF Travel Policy](#)

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

[UCSF COVID-19 Vaccine Information Hub](#)

---