



UCSF Health COVID-19

January 15, 2020

In this edition:

There have been many questions from employees and patients related to the UCSF vaccine rollout. Much of this edition is dedicated to addressing common questions received to date.

TOWN HALLS

You can watch the video of last Friday's UCSF Town Hall [here](#). Topics include our COVID-19 vaccine rollout, testing updates and the new COVID-19 variant.

COVID-19 UPDATES

"ELEVATOR" STATEMENT

Please feel free to share the following statement if you receive questions from patients or the public.

The current status of the vaccine rollout at UCSF can be viewed on the [COVID vaccine dashboard](#). Nearly all of Group 1A, subgroups a-d, have been offered first vaccination. We are currently vaccinating our health care providers and other staff and learners at high-risk of COVID-19 exposure.

We are starting to offer vaccinations to our patients, prioritizing by age, beginning with patients aged 75 and older, as guided by public health agencies and the availability of our vaccine supply. Patients will be contacted directly when vaccines become available, and they do not need to contact their care provider's office.

It is difficult to provide a timeline, as our progress will depend on vaccine availability which to date has been unpredictable. You can learn more by visiting [UCSF COVID-19 Vaccine Information Hub](#). This site will be updated as new information becomes available.

VOLUNTEERS

We are grateful for the outpouring of support from everyone who has volunteered at the COVID-19 vaccination clinics. The assistance has been invaluable as we ramped up this project. Thanks to your interest, we are fully staffed. As we expand our vaccination efforts, we likely will need volunteer assistance again and will notify you when we reach that point. If you are interested in helping in future, please sign up for a minimum of three shifts on the [Workforce Redeployment Platform](#) since there is an investment of training involved, and multiple shifts with the same people help with continuity in our clinics. Please note that BCH Oakland is not using volunteers in its vaccination clinics.

MISSION BAY BLOOD DRIVE

- **WHEN:** Thursday, January 28th and Friday January 29th, from 9 am - 2 pm
 - **WHERE:** Fisher Auditorium, Mission Bay Conference Center, 1625 Owens Street, San Francisco, CA 94158
- NOTE:** If you have recently been vaccinated with the COVID19 vaccine, you ARE able to donate Red Blood Cells (for 14 days after vaccine, you are only restricted from donating plasma)

COVID-19 precautions will be in place with COVID-19 universal masking, COVID screening, strict social distancing and proper cleaning procedures. You can make an appointment by [clicking here](#) and clicking **donate**. Use the sponsor code: **UCSF**. You also can find more information [here](#).

Donating blood takes 60-90 minutes. Please eat a hearty breakfast and lunch and be sure to hydrate well the day before and the day of the blood drive. For eligibility questions, please [click here](#) or contact [Vitalant](#) through their website. The blood drive is hosted by the UCSF Blood Drive Committee. Contact [Katie Maniatis, RN](#) or [Erica Tavares, RN](#) with questions or if you would like to join future blood drive efforts.

All completed blood donations will be screened for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. You will be able to find out if your plasma can be used to help others currently battling the virus. For more information regarding this [click here](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EMPLOYEES

When will we know more specifics about which employees will be invited to be vaccinated?

We have started vaccinating primary care patients who are 75 years and older. Simultaneously we will continue to finish vaccinating employees and learners whose on-site responsibilities involve high-risk exposure to COVID-19, as well as UCSF employees and learners whose responsibilities have required them to work on site regularly, including those in research, education, and operational/administrative areas. As more vaccines become available, we will continue to vaccinate more patients based on public health guidelines and vaccine supply, and UCSF employees who are working remotely, beginning with those aged 75 years and older. We will share specifics as we have them.

Is UCSF vaccinating its affiliated physicians such as UCSF Benioff Children's Physicians?

Yes, we have invited almost 1,000 affiliate physicians and their staff to be vaccinated.

Will UCSF use the single vaccine dose rather than the double dose?

For now, we will continue to use the two doses as recommended by both vaccine manufacturers and all US-based regulators and officials. We will be open to it if these recommendations change.

When do we expect to have vaccinated all UCSF workers?

The timing is difficult to predict because we don't know the vaccine supply. We are trying to increase the rate at which we are giving them to our employees. Based on current deployment, we predict having completed Phase 1A-a-d (both doses) by February 10.

If I had COVID-19, how long should I wait to get the vaccine?

The recommendation is to wait three months.

Once a majority of employees are vaccinated, will there be changes to our travel guidance, the daily screener, etc.?

We aren't making changes for now. Although we are certain the vaccines are effective, there still are things we don't know such as whether it's possible to transmit the virus if you have been vaccinated or how long protection lasts. We will keep in place all the procedures that have protected us so far. Remember: a vaccine is not a cure so it is imperative that you continue to mask, physically distance, wear eye protection in clinical care and wash your hands.

If I get my vaccine at another hospital, how do I let UCSF know?

Please email covidvaccine@ucsf.edu with your name, employee ID, what type of vaccine and when. Please also decline when you receive an invitation, so we aren't following up with you.

Is UCSF going to work with community partners, such as those in the Mission and Bayview, as we did for testing?

We are in discussions through the Hospital Council and the local department of public health about options for mass vaccinations. As we have these discussions, we will continue to maximize delivering our own vaccines here.

If employees decline the vaccine invitation and then changes their minds, how do they reverse the decision?

Please email covidvaccine@ucsf.edu. You will not lose your place in the phasing.

If I am vaccinated, and work in a high-risk setting, can I transmit when I go home?

We don't know whether the vaccines are associated with decreased transmission. There aren't enough data right now.

PATIENTS

How are we communicating the availability of UCSF vaccines to our patients?

On Wednesday, we sent a message to 500,000 UCSF patients explaining the process of rolling out the vaccine, who is priority, the limited availability of our vaccine supplies and asking them not to call their doctors' offices. The home page of the UCSF Health website carries this [message](#), and we have included messaging in MyChart, as well as scripting for our call center staff.

Following are answers to some of the most common questions from patients, as well as websites where they can find more information. We will continue to update the website and provide you with answers as we receive them.

How can we answer common patient questions about the COVID vaccine?

Question	Answer	Link
How/when can I get my vaccine?	UCSF is following guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the CDC to identify patients who are eligible for vaccination during each phase of the vaccine rollout and balancing that guidance with our supply of vaccines. As of Jan. 15, 2021, we have begun offering vaccines to patients age 65 and over, beginning with the over 75 age group. Please note that vaccine supplies are limited, so it will likely take several weeks to vaccinate this group.	https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/patients#As-a-UCSF-patient-will-I-be-prioritized-to-receive-the-vaccine
How do I find out if my health condition would let me get the vaccine sooner being at higher risk?	Per state and federal guidelines, we will provide vaccines for patients aged 16-64 patients with health conditions in a later stage.	https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/patients#As-a-UCSF-patient-will-I-be-prioritized-to-receive-the-vaccine
Will you be vaccinating folks outside of the age qualification of this upcoming round?	No, we will adhere to the CDC guidance.	https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/patients#As-a-UCSF-patient-will-I-be-prioritized-to-receive-the-vaccine
How do I get on the list?	We are rolling this out based on age, per public health guidance and the limited availability of the vaccine supply at UCSF. There is no waiting list at UCSF available. You will be contacted when it is your turn.	https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/patients#How-will-I-know-when-I-am-eligible-for-the-vaccine-Should-I-ask-my-care-provider
How will you be contacting me to schedule the vaccination?	We will contact patients through MyChart or the contact information designated in their health record. If you are not on MyChart, we encourage you to	https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/patients#How-will-I-know-when-I-am-eligible-for-the-vaccine-Should-I-ask-my-care-provider

	sign up at https://www.ucsfhealth.org/mychart .	
I heard that the first group would include seniors above age 65. Why are you saying 75?	Our vaccine supply is extremely limited, with only a few days' worth of supply available at a time. We are starting with patients aged 75 and over and will expand further when vaccine supplies allow.	
Will information and side effects be provided to people receiving vaccination?	We provide information about potential side effects and other education to everyone receiving a vaccine.	https://ucsf.box.com/s/3lje1fua6mcsmh3se5h01pqpa37bv7em
What about immunocompromised people and children?	Please speak with your doctor about whether the vaccine is the right option for you.	https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/patients#As-a-UCSF-patient-will-i-be-prioritized-to-receive-the-vaccine and https://ucsf.box.com/s/3lje1fua6mcsmh3se5h01pqpa37bv7em
Why is the process taking so long?	The first tier of vaccines was designated for people who need to keep our health care system capable of taking care of others who are ill and at the highest risk of exposure to COVID-19. At UCSF that includes health care workers and first responders. This is an extremely large group of people, and our vaccine supply is very limited. Once the vaccine supply is more stable, we and public health departments and hospitals will be able to offer vaccines more broadly.	

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
