



UCSF Health COVID-19 Clinical Update

Clinical Update

March 4, 2021

In Today's Issue:

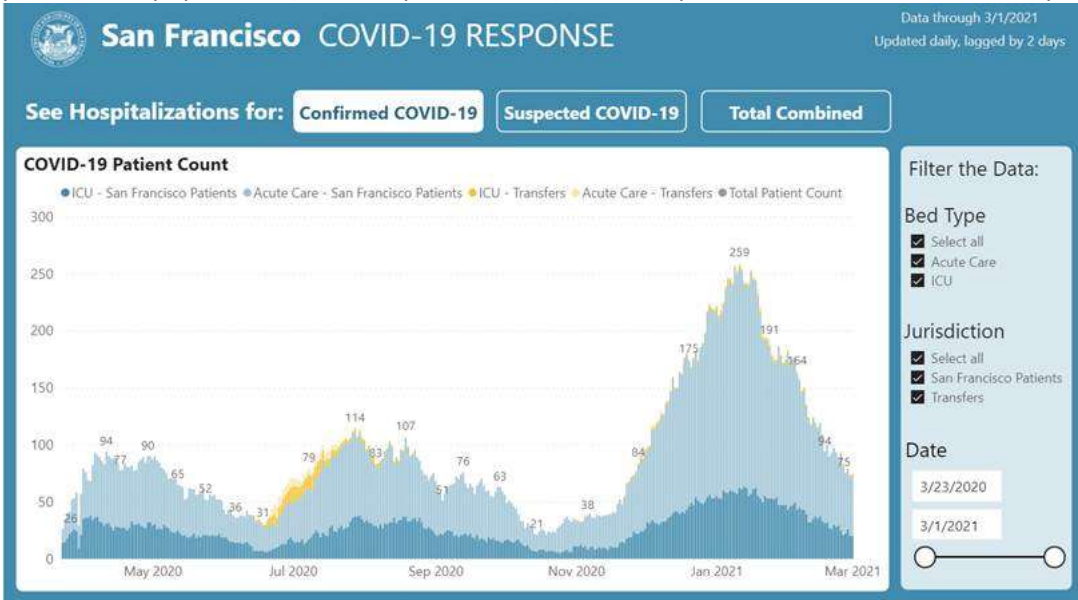
- COVID-19 PRN Asymptomatic Testing Order for Inpatients
- Visitor Policy Updates
- Suspension of Precautionary Isolation Orders for Patients from Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Universal Masking Guidance
- Return to Work Updates Following Travel
- COVID Vaccine Updates

The next [UCSF Health Town Hall](#) will be on Tuesday 3/9 at 4PM.

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	20	0.6 %	3.4 %	Green
ZSFG	14			Yellow

Currently, San Francisco remains at Level 4 High Alert, but with continuing improvement this week to 7.5 new cases daily per 100,000 population (Goal 1.8 per 100, 000). This is equal to about 65 new cases daily in San Francisco.



Hospitalizations in San Francisco for COVID19 confirmed cases are also declining.
 More San Francisco COVID19 public health indicators are available via this [SFPDH Website](#).

COVID-19 PRN Asymptomatic Testing Order for Inpatients

Starting **Wednesday, March 10th**, a **new PRN order** will be available for providers and nursing to utilize for asymptomatic and post-mortem workflows. This order will be available within core admission order sets and will be auto-checked for all inpatients. Nursing will release the order as needed based on the indications in the table below.

***All symptomatic testing workflows will still require a one-time provider order.*

	PRN Order Release Indications	
Population	Hospital Day #7	Subsequent
Asymptomatic, no AGPs	N/A	✓ Retest if needing anesthesia/procedural sedation and last test > 7 days prior.
Asymptomatic, frequent/continuous AGPs ¹	✓	✓ Weekly. Retest if needing anesthesia/procedural sedation and last test > 7 days prior.
Adult Units only: Asymptomatic, shared room, +/-AGPs	✓ Every Monday and Thursday starting ≥ 2 days after day 4 test.	
Post-Mortem	✓ Testing prior to discharge from care area if no provider order is present (exception: test pending, still birth, COVID+ or COVID recovered)	

For a list of AGPs refer to this [guidance](#).

For up the most up to date algorithms on when a patient should be tested, please refer to [UCSF COVID 19 algorithms](#).

Visitor Policy Updates

As the number of patients hospitalized with COVID declines and cases fall in the Bay Area, we are preparing to move to Visitation Level 1.

The criteria for this include:

- UCSF in Yellow surge status (or less) for 7 days
- San Francisco Shelter in place status: Lifted
- Test Positivity Rate in SF and Neighboring counties, 7-day average: <5%

	2/24 Wed	2/25 Thurs	2/26 Friday	2/27 Sat	2/28 Sun	3/1 Mon	3/2 Tues
UCSF Surge Status	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Shelter in Place	Lifted	Lifted	Lifted	Lifted	Lifted	Lifted	Lifted
Test Positivity (7-day average)	4.7%	3.8%	2.9%	2.5%	2.5%	2.4%	2.4%

Starting **Thursday March 4th**, in accordance with Visitation Level 1:

- Hours for General Visitation in Adult and Pediatric Hospitals will be expanded to **10AM – 8PM daily**. The existing visitor limitations for Ambulatory and Perioperative areas will remain unchanged.
- Necessary Visitation for patients with a specific medical or caregiving need will continue, as will the process for requests to the [Visitor Escalation Committee](#)

Please see the updated [visitor policy](#) and [tip sheets](#) for more information

Suspending Precautionary Novel Respiratory Isolation Recommendations for Patients Transferred from Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)

Starting on Friday, 3/5/21 we will no longer require precautionary Novel Respiratory Isolation for patients coming from SNFs to UCSF inpatient, ambulatory or procedural areas. We will be retiring the Best Practice Alerts that prompt providers to isolate these patients. These changes are based on this updated information:

1. COVID-19 transmission among San Francisco SNF residents and staff has decreased substantially over the past several weeks
2. Public health departments in partnership with SNFs have successfully vaccinated the majority of SNF residents and staff
3. During the past month, we have not identified any patients admitted from a SNF with negative admission COVID-19 tests who were subsequently found to be infected
4. Precautionary Novel Respiratory Isolation can result in significant obstacles to the care of patients residing in SNFs

Inpatients with the COVID Exposure flag and who are currently in precautionary Novel Respiratory Isolation will have their isolation removed tomorrow. The Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention team will notify teams and inpatient units tomorrow and will remove the flags. Patients from SNFs scheduled for procedures or visits beginning tomorrow will not need to be in isolation.

Please continue to have a low threshold for isolating and testing any patients who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If the situation changes and a resurgence of COVID-19 outbreaks in SNFs is observed, we will consider re-deploying the precautionary isolation process.

Universal Masking Guidance for Patients and Visitors

At UCSF, we ask patients and visitors to wear a hospital-issued disposable procedure (surgical) mask because it provides reliable source control and protection compared to a cloth face covering.

If the patient or visitor declines to remove their personal mask, we will ask them to wear a hospital-issued disposable procedure (surgical) mask over their personal mask. This strategy was developed for several reasons:

1. Although the CDC guidance recommends wearing a cloth mask over a disposable procedure (surgical) mask as one method to improve mask fit in the community setting, wearing a hospital-issued disposable procedure (surgical) mask is an important visual cue that the patient or visitor has undergone screening

2. Since the care of personal masks is variable, layering a hospital-issued disposable procedure (surgical) mask provides a clean outer layer with a standard filtration efficacy
3. Some patients or visitors may feel more secure if they keep their personal mask on

For Healthcare Workers: **Healthcare workers are not allowed to use cloth masks.** Healthcare workers should wear a hospital-issued disposable procedure (surgical) mask while at work (remove mask and put on N-95 when indicated).

Review this [guidance](#) for optimizing fit of the hospital-issued disposable procedure (surgical) mask.

Return to Work Guidance Updated Following Domestic Travel

Domestic travel guidance has been updated to comply with new SFPDPH guidance to rescind mandatory travel quarantine and shift to CDPH guidance:

- Recommendations referencing the “9 Bay-Area counties” have been replaced with “travel > 120 miles from home or domestic travel outside California”
- CDPH advisory states “should” quarantine rather than ‘must’ quarantine.
- The testing requirement decreased from 3 tests to 2 tests for those that return to work soon after return from travel
- Testing continues to remain mandatory, and not optional, if returning to work less than 10 days after return from travel.

Changes are reflected in updated COVID [travel](#), [visitor](#), and [vendor](#) pages.

COVID Vaccine Updates

Vaccine Updates and Next Phase of Eligibility

We know there are many questions about the new vaccine eligibility guidelines that will take effect statewide on March 15 for patients "at higher risk". We have not received further clarity on these categories beyond what is posted on the [CDPH vaccine web site](#), but can share what we expect. So far, the public vaccination sites all use self-attestations for eligibility, rather than documentation. Most are requiring a photo ID, but they are not requiring verification of work (e.g., for teachers or essential workers). We expect that to continue as the new categories are introduced. As a result, we do not expect the sites to require a physician's letter as verification. One role we do anticipate for our providers, however, is providing guidance for our patients on whether they are eligible under the new category, since many of our patients have complex or unusual disorders that do not fit into the state's categories. There are still many unknowns on this, but we will update you as soon as we receive further clarification.

MyTurn Update

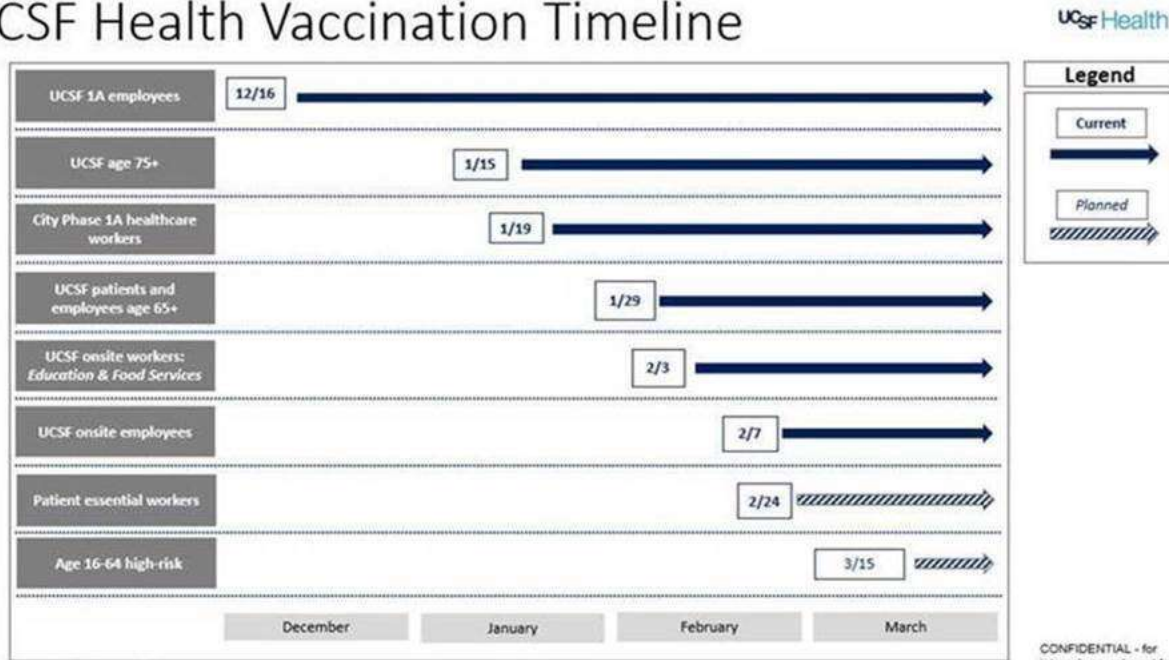
We have heard that the MyTurn system will take effect in the Bay Area sometime in the next week or two, allowing people to sign up for vaccines at any vaccination site. We expect that people will be able to schedule at our vaccination clinics, which will be open to any individual who meets the eligibility criteria. Until the site goes live, people can continue to sign up through their county vaccine web sites (such as [sf.gov/getvaccinated](#), in San Francisco) or through our MyChart system. Please note that the vaccine supply is very limited statewide over the next few weeks as we provide second doses for a large number of patients. We expect the supply to increase after mid-March, as the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine ramps up and as more vaccine vendors fulfill supply of second doses.

Promote Vaccine Confidence

UCSF is featuring members of our community in a series of public service announcements to build confidence in the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. [Share with friends, family, and colleagues.](#)

Current phasing:

UCSF Health Vaccination Timeline



Presenter: Susan Smith, MD

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COVID Vaccine Resources

- **Hotline for scheduling (employees & patients):** (415) 476-3307
- **Email:** covidvaccine@ucsf.edu
- **Website:** <https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/vaccines>
- **MyChart activation help desk:** (415) 514-6000

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
Adult ED and Inpatient Visitor Quick Guide	Update	Administrative Announcements and Workflows	3/2/2021	Updates to allowed visitor restrictions and exceptions and new easy to understand format
Asymptomatic Patients Algorithm	Update	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	2/28/2021	Main changes were to make clearer that COVID exposed patients should remain in isolation for full quarantine period even if test is negative.
Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Patients Algorithm	Update	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	2/28/2021	Main changes were to make clearer that COVID exposed patients should remain in isolation for full quarantine period even if test is negative.
Symptomatic Patients Algorithm	Update	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	2/28/2021	Main changes were to make clearer that COVID exposed patients should remain in isolation for full quarantine period even if test is negative.
Continue to Work – Return to Work DETAILED GUIDELINES	Update	Occupational Health Services	2/27/2021	Updated domestic travel guidelines

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](#)

[Vaccination, Treatment and Testing FAQs for Providers](#)
