



UCSF Health COVID-19

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TOWN HALLS

You can watch Tuesday's UCSF Health Town Hall [HERE](#). Topics include vaccinations and COVID-19 variants. Please plan to attend next Friday's UCSF Town Hall from 4-5 p.m. You can find information [HERE](#).

COVID-19 UPDATES

UCSF gave its 100,000th COVID-19 vaccination today to Dorita "Doy" Fernandez, a UCSF Health patient receiving her second dose. Doy emerged from the vaccine room to a standing ovation from staff and other awaiting patients. UCSF Chancellor Sam Hawgood and UCSF Health CEO and President Mark Laret congratulated the team on the milestone and [thanked them](#) for the tremendous effort that has made the vaccination rollout a success across UCSF sites.

CDC GUIDELINES FOR SMALL-GROUP GATHERINGS BY FULLY VACCINATED PEOPLE IN NON-HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

As you are probably aware, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued interim [recommendations for fully vaccinated people](#) in non-health care settings. It's important to note that these recommendations are intended for the community, which doesn't carry the risks of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 that we have in our health system.

Currently, all of our protocols for masking, distancing, hand hygiene and eye protection remain in place.

Groups comprising individuals from clinical, education, research, and administration are meeting to develop a roadmap to guide leaders in relaxing specific COVID-19 prevention and control measures, and what criteria we will use. We will consider how many people across our workforce have been vaccinated and the trends in new COVID-19 infections among our patients and staff and the density of people in areas of our facilities. We will need to be closer to having 100% of our workforce vaccinated and fewer new COVID-19 cases to consider changes. More broadly, we also still need more of the community to be vaccinated. The good news is that all of these criteria are moving in the right direction. We will provide updates.

Please note that the CDC recommends that while out in public, fully vaccinated individuals should continue to mask, physically distance, practice hand hygiene, and avoid travel and convening in large crowds.

EIGHT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THREE COVID-19 VACCINES

1. The Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccines are some of the most effective vaccines ever produced, including against current COVID-19 variants.
2. All three vaccines are overwhelmingly effective at significantly reducing severe illness, hospitalization, and death. The best vaccine is the one that is available to you.
3. Comparing effectiveness rates of the three vaccines is like comparing apples to oranges. Each was tested in different clinical settings, time of year, and places where there were or were not variants.
4. Just like other vaccines, they are not 100% effective in preventing you from getting COVID-19, but they do significantly reduce your risk and severe illness. You may have mild symptoms or none.
5. The vaccines won't give you COVID-19.
6. The vaccines play an important role in ending the pandemic. Having more people vaccinated will reduce the development and spread of viral variants.
7. The vaccines were approved in record time but based on decades-old science.
8. The vaccines have been found to be safe and effective in tens of thousands of adults in clinical trials and in millions of people world-wide.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Time of Remembrance for UCSF Staff, Faculty, and Learners: Honoring Our Losses During COVID-19

Join members of the UCSF community on [Tuesday, March 23, at 4 p.m. via Zoom](#), a time dedicated to acknowledging the grief and loss that our community has experienced during the pandemic. Staff, faculty, learners and leaders will share their experiences and spiritual leaders will guide the audience in a memorial ceremony to honor our losses, including patients and loved ones who have died. Please note the new [Zoom link](#) for this event, which was updated after the town hall was first announced.

Special Series to Commemorate One-Year of COVID-19 Pandemic

To mark one year since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, UCSF is presenting [COVID-19: The Path Forward](#), a three-part public series of virtual panel discussions that will examine science, health equity and our shared future in the wake of COVID-19. The three panels are:

- How the Science Will Drive Recovery, [recording available online](#).
- [The COVID-19 Mandate for Equity](#), Tuesday, March 16 at 5 p.m.
- [Mapping a Post-Pandemic World](#), Tuesday, March 23 at 5 p.m.

More information about each panel, including a list of speakers and the Zoom link for each event, can be found on the [UCSF Events Calendar](#).

Mission Bay Blood Drive

HUGE GRATITUDE to donors from the February Blood Drive! Due to your generosity, we collected a grand total of 96 total units, which has the potential to save as many as 288 lives. The next drive is as follows:

- **WHEN:** Thursday, March 25th and Friday March 26th, from 9 am - 2 pm
- **WHERE:** UCSF Mission Bay at the new UCSF Valley Center for Vision across the street from the MB cafeteria--490 Illinois Street, Topaz Room
- **NOTE:** If you recently received 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 visiting <https://www.bloodheroes.com> and click **donate**. Use the sponsor code: **UCSF**

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 consult <https://www.vitalant.org/Donate/Donor-Eligibility.aspx> or contact Vitalant through their website. This blood drive is being hosted by the UCSF Blood Drive Committee, please contact Katie Maniatis (kathleen.maniatis@ucsf.edu) or Erica Tavares (erica.tavares@ucsf.edu) if you have any 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 please visit www.vitalant.org/antibodytest. Please visit [COVID-19 Antibody Testing Frequently Asked Questions](#) for frequently asked questions related to COVID-19.

EMPLOYEE TIME OFF FOR VACCINES/CLARIFICATION

As a reminder, employees will be provided paid time off for the time needed to get the COVID-19 vaccine. We want to provide more clarity about the process.

In coordination with their supervisor, employees can be released from their duties during work hours to get vaccinated. If vaccination cannot be accommodated during an employee's shift due to operational/patient care needs, a supervisor may authorize the use of paid Administrative Leave to get vaccinated during non-scheduled work time.

In the inpatient areas, employees who are seeking to get their vaccine during non-scheduled work time will need to seek advance approval from their Unit Director/Assistant Unit Director. If approved, this should be coded as admin time on their timesheets.

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](#); 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
