



UCSF Health COVID-19 Clinical Update

Clinical Update
March 18, 2021

In Today's Issue:

- **Bronchodilator Recommendations Updated**
- **Inpatient COVID Clinical Guidelines Updated to include Tocilizumab Treatment**
- **Vaccine Updates**
 - **Eligibility**
 - **Documentation of Eligibility**
 - **Vaccine Supply**
 - **UCSF Vaccine Allocation**
 - **UCSF Vaccine Sites Updated**
 - **Booking Vaccine Appointments**
 - **Vaccine FAQs for Providers**
- **COVID19 Control Plan Updated**

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	16	0.6 %	5.5%	Green
ZSFG	6			Green

Currently, San Francisco has moved to Level 2 Low Alert with continuing improvement this week to 3.6 new cases daily per 100,000 population (Goal 1.8 per 100, 000). This is equal to about 36 new cases daily in San Francisco. More San Francisco COVID19 public health indicators are available via this [SFDPH Website](#).

Bronchodilator Recommendations Updated

Early in the pandemic, restrictions on Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI) bronchodilator therapies were put in place due to shortages related to COVID19. The supply of MDIs has now stabilized sufficiently to expand MDI usage beyond initial restrictions. Nonetheless, judicious bronchodilator use is still needed. The key recommendations are in the table below:

Patient Population	Bronchodilator Strategy
Mechanically ventilated patients or Patients unable to tolerate MDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preferentially use nebulized bronchodilators ● Limit bronchodilator use unless clear indication (e.g. asthma, COPD).
All other patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preferentially use metered dose inhalers (MDIs) ● Limit bronchodilator use unless clear indication (e.g. asthma, COPD).

See the [Updated Bronchodilator Recommendations](#) for more details.

These changes have been approved by physician, pharmacy and respiratory care leadership, and will also be updated in APeX.

Inpatient COVID Clinical Guidelines Updated to include Tocilizumab Treatment

[Adult Inpatient Clinical Management Guidelines](#) for COVID19 have been updated to include guidance for treatment of COVID19 with Tocilizumab for critically ill ICU or TCU patients. Please see the document for details.

Vaccine Updates

Eligibility

Starting March 15th, individuals age 16 to 64 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to one or more [health conditions](#) became eligible to schedule a vaccination appointment, when available, through the state's [MyTurn](#) system, county vaccine websites, and some health care providers. You can find more detail in [Vaccine Eligibility Expansion to Persons Under 65 with Qualifying Conditions \(San Francisco\)](#).

In addition to certain health conditions, the California Department of Public Health and City and County of San Francisco have expanded eligibility for the vaccine to additional categories including persons:

- age 16 to 64 with disabilities
- who live or work in high-risk congregate care facilities, including correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and other congregate residential care/treatment facilities
- who are experiencing homelessness.

Do Patients Need Proof of Eligibility?

Patients may wonder whether they need to show proof of their qualifying condition.

UCSF is following State and City guidance that relies on self-attestation and will not require additional verification documentation. Other publicly run sites in San Francisco are following the same guidance, but this policy currently varies across counties and providers.

A [template letter](#) is available in APeX for patients who ask for proof of eligibility for health conditions.

Vaccine Supply

The Bay Area continues to experience limited vaccine supplies and unpredictable allotments, which likely will become more acute as more people seek vaccines. Patients and employees should continually look for other options via [MyTurn](#) and their county vaccine web sites.

UCSF Vaccine Allocation

We are continuing to experience highly unpredictable vaccine allocations from the state. This week, we have been able to open additional appointments for both Moderna and Janssen/J&J first doses, but have not received our expected allocations for a large number of Pfizer second doses that are coming due in the next two weeks. As a result, we will be alerting patients with Pfizer second-dose appointments between March 21 and 31 that their vaccinations will be rescheduled two weeks from their current time. Over the next two weeks, we will be prioritizing patients whose vaccine intervals are approaching or exceeding the 42-day recommended interval. Below are some talking points if you receive questions from patients:

- **Will I get my vaccine?** We have every intention of providing your second vaccine. We are not cancelling it - simply moving appointments until we receive more vaccine. We expect to receive more in April.
- **Why is this happening?** Unfortunately, the state has not sent us enough Pfizer doses to cover second doses this week or next.
- **Should I just find another dose somewhere else?** Most sites are only providing second doses to people who have received their first dose at that site. We have you in our schedule and will provide yours at UCSF.
- **Will my vaccine still work if I'm late for the 2nd dose?** There is promising research that shows the Pfizer vaccine is up to 90% effective three weeks after the first dose alone, so from what we know so far, this will not affect how well the first one works. We still recommend that you continue to wear a mask and follow other safety protocols while the virus is still widespread in our community.
- **Is there any chance I could get an earlier appointment?** We will be reaching out to our patients whose second dose appointments are approaching the 42-day interval recommended by the CDC, so we can make sure we

provide their appointments first. If this change will approach that timeframe for your second dose, we will make sure you are in the priority group as soon as we receive further allocations.

- **I heard that other people are getting UCSF vaccines. Why are they available to them and not me?** We have received more supplies of both of the other types of vaccines (Moderna and J&J), but not Pfizer. The CDC recommends that you get the same vaccine for both doses.

UCSF Health Vaccine Locations Update

We have increased our vaccination capacity at both City College and Rutter Center over the past few weeks. As a result, we will be closing our Parnassus site after March 21. If you have patients who received their first dose at Parnassus, we will alert them that they will receive their second dose at Rutter Center instead.

Booking Vaccine Appointments

- [MyTurn](#), the state’s vaccine scheduling system, is now active for Bay Area residents, and UCSF sites can be found there.
- MyTurn phone access: CA COVID-19 Hotline 1-833-422-4255 (M-F 8AM-8PM, Sa-Su 8AM-5PM)
- The UCSF Vaccine Scheduling Help Line is 415-476-3307.
- Each Bay Area county’s vaccine website offers appointments at county-run vaccination sites and at Walgreens, CVS and Safeway pharmacies.
- Statewide vaccine supplies remain limited, so appointments at UCSF locations are currently being prioritized for those needing their second dose.
- Employees who receive their COVID-19 vaccine outside of UCSF should email a copy of their vaccine record to [UCSF Occupational Health Services](#).

More information about vaccine scheduling can be found on the [UCSF Vaccine Hub](#).

VACCINE FAQS FOR PROVIDERS

The [COVID-19 FAQs for Providers](#) section on testing was updated on March 17th. This document includes information related to vaccines, treatment, and testing.

COVID19 Control Plan Updated

The [COVID-19 Control Plan](#) has been updated with the addition of Appendix B: Postmortem COVID-19 Testing. This appendix outlines the clinical procedures for required postmortem SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 testing per SFDPH Health Order C19-14 (6/25/20) and the follow-up workflow for cases with positive SARS-CoV-2 results.

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
UCSF Adult COVID-19 Management Guidelines	Update	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	3/18/2021	Guidance for when use of tocilizumab might be considered
COVID-19 Bronchodilator Changes	Update	Administrative Announcements and Workflows	3/17/2021	Easing of restrictions on use of metered dose inhalers.
COVID-19 Control Plan	Update	Control Plan and Testing	3/17/2021	Expanded with the new Appendix B: Postmortem COVID-19 Testing.
COVID-19 FAQs for Providers	Update	COVID-19: Vaccine	3/17/2021	Testing section updated.
UCSF COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Use Process	Update	Algorithms and Clinical Guidance	3/17/2021	Main change is removing pregnancy as an exclusion.

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](#)
