

Additional Return to Care Guidance for COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 exposed Patients

Patients who are diagnosed with COVID-19 or are exposed to COVID-19 and require Novel Respiratory Isolation should receive time- sensitive health care using appropriate PPE and workflows. Only non-urgent medical care should be deferred until criteria to discontinue isolation are met

Patients with sustained close contact (e.g. household contact) with a known case of COVID-19 (COVID-19 exposed)

Individuals who had close contact (<6 feet apart for >15 minutes cumulative over time) with a known COVID-19 positive person are considered COVID-19 exposed should ideally remain out of the healthcare setting during their specified quarantine period. This includes household contacts of COVID-19 positive patients. These COVID-19 exposed individuals may return to care if and when:

- There are no concerning symptoms in the exposed person; AND
- Whichever of the following applies:
 - 14 days since the last unprotected contact with an infectious COVID-19 positive patient (person still in their isolation period); OR
 - If isolation from COVID-19 infected person cannot be ensured, 14 days since the COVID-19 positive person's home isolation period has ended. Please refer to the [discontinuation of isolation guidance for COVID-19 positive patients](#) to determine the isolation period. (i.e., at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset AND 24 hours after resolution of fever without antipyretics and symptoms associated with COVID-19 have improved; some periods of isolation may be longer).
- If the exposed person remains asymptomatic and needs to come into the healthcare setting before the above criteria are met, patient must be cared for using Novel Respiratory Isolation including PPE and workflows until the criteria above are met.

Scheduling of Appointments

- For known COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 exposed patients, please reschedule any non-essential appointments. Consider telemedicine options when possible.
- For patients who require a time-sensitive visit for a non-COVID-19 issue, or a procedure such as lab draw, the preferred setting is within a Respiratory Screening Centers (RSCs) when possible. In some cases, the patient's primary clinician or subspecialist could conduct the visit using an RSC exam room. Please contact the nearest RSC (see contacts for Mission Bay, Parnassus or Mount Zion at the end of this document) to inquire about room availability, prior to scheduling. In certain situations, an RSC clinician may see a patient for a non-COVID-19 acute care issue. Ideally, this should be preceded by a warm handoff from the responsible clinician.
- If the patient needs to come into a non-RSC specialty clinic or procedure area for essential appointments:
 - Schedule their appointment at the end of the day or during the clinic's least busy time frame

- Schedule all visit components to occur in the same room (i.e. blood draw, vitals, and provider appt should occur in the same room)
- If radiology imaging is required, it must be scheduled as the last appointment of the day and the department should be notified so that they can enact their COVID-19 protocols.
- Consider adding to Appointment Note: “COVID Positive Protocol Required”
This note indicates to the receiving team that Novel Respiratory Isolation PPE and workflows are required in order to safely treat the patient (See Day of Appt instructions below)

Prior to Patient Arrival

- Patients should be instructed on the steps to minimize exposure when they arrive at the clinic. These instructions include:
 - Direction on how to arrive at the clinic, including which entrance to use (prefer to use entrances that avoid the uses of elevators, or crowded lobbies, if possible).
 - Before entering the clinic, patients should call the care team to inform of their arrival so that they may be roomed right away. Per clinic availability and preference, patients may be escorted from their car or entrance by one of the clinic staff members.
 - Patients should wear a mask at all times (if age appropriate and no other contraindications) in the clinical space. If possible, they should wear a mask from home before entering the clinic. If they do not have any mask available at home, patients can cover their mouth and nose with a bandana or scarf until the clinic can provide a mask. There are masks available at the front entrances, which can be requested upon arrival or delivered by clinic staff to a patient waiting in vehicle.
 - Approved caregivers, if needed to escort the patient, should wear a mask as well. Otherwise, no visitors will be allowed with the patients.
 - Patients should try to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from other patients and staff members outside of an exam room.
 - Patients should contact their clinical team for questions regarding the discontinuation of these Novel Respiratory Isolation measures

Day of the Appointment

- Patients should wear a mask at all times in the clinic (if age appropriate and no other contraindications), even in an exam room. Patients should only remove mask if required for patient care activities (i.e. an oral exam).
- Patients should be roomed as soon as possible and placed in private room with the door closed.
- Limit the number of healthcare personnel who enter the room as much as possible.
- Healthcare personnel should adhere to **Novel Respiratory Isolation** when caring for patients with COVID-19 infection or who are COVID-19 exposed. These precautions include the use of the following PPE:
 - Fit-tested N95 respirator plus face shield or PAPR
 - Gown
 - Gloves

- Avoid performing any aerosol-generating procedures, if possible
 - Aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) include bronchoscopy, endotracheal intubation, non-invasive positive pressure ventilation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, suctioning, non-invasive positive pressure ventilation, and nebulizer therapy. For a full list of AGPs refer to this [guidance](#).
 - If an AGP is necessary, it should ideally be performed in a negative pressure airborne infection isolation room (AIIR). Place "Aerosol-Generating Procedure" sign on door during the procedure and for the appropriate amount of time afterwards needed to clear $\geq 99\%$ of airborne contaminants (use 1 hour as the default but specific rooms/areas with relatively high numbers of air changes per hour may require less time).
 - Clinicians and staff must wear appropriate PPE: gown, gloves, approved and fit-tested N95 respirator plus face shield or PAPR. Clinicians and staff should continue to wear all PPE when entering the room for the appropriate amount of time afterwards needed to clear $\geq 99\%$ of airborne contaminants (use 1 hour as the default but specific rooms/areas with relatively high numbers of air changes per hour may require less time).
 - Additional PPE information is available on the UCSF infection control website
- Use dedicated or disposable noncritical patient-care equipment (e.g., blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes) when possible. If equipment will be used for more than one patient, clean and disinfect such equipment according to manufacturer's instructions before use on another patient.
- After the patient leaves, clean the room, including all high touch surface areas with disinfectant wipes. **If an aerosol generating procedure is performed, let the room stand empty for the appropriate amount of time afterwards needed to clear $\geq 99\%$ of airborne contaminants (use 1 hour as the default but specific rooms/areas with relatively high numbers of air changes per hour may require less time) prior to cleaning.** Once this time elapses, the person cleaning the room should wear gown and gloves.
 - Sani-Cloth AF3, Super Sani-Cloth, Clorox Bleach Wipes, and Clorox Hydrogen Peroxide Wipes are all effective at killing COVID-19

Key Contacts

Hours of operation are subject to change. For the latest updates, refer to UCSF Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention website, and click on any Ambulatory triage algorithm.

Adult Respiratory Screening Clinics (RSCs)

Parnassus Respiratory Screening Clinic:

Backline: 415-353-2138

400 Parnassus 1st Floor San Francisco, CA 94143

Mount Zion RSC:

Backline: 415-885-3549

1600 Divisadero Ave, 2nd Floor of the Cancer Center San Francisco, CA 94115

Mission Bay RSC;
Backline: 415-514-4085
1825 4th Street, 4th floor, Gateway Medical Building San Francisco, CA 94158

Pediatric Respiratory Screening Clinics (RSCs)

Mission Bay RSC;
Backline: 415-514-4085
1825 4th Street, 4th floor, Gateway Medical Building San Francisco, CA 94158

COVID Hotline: 415-514-7328
Hours of Operation (subject to change): Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm; Saturday-Sunday: 8-2pm

Provider Only Central Scheduling Line: 415-514-2850
For urgent RSC scheduling needs. RSC appts still require a referral.
Hours of operation (subject to change): Monday-Friday 8am-7pm; Saturday-Sunday 8am-6pm