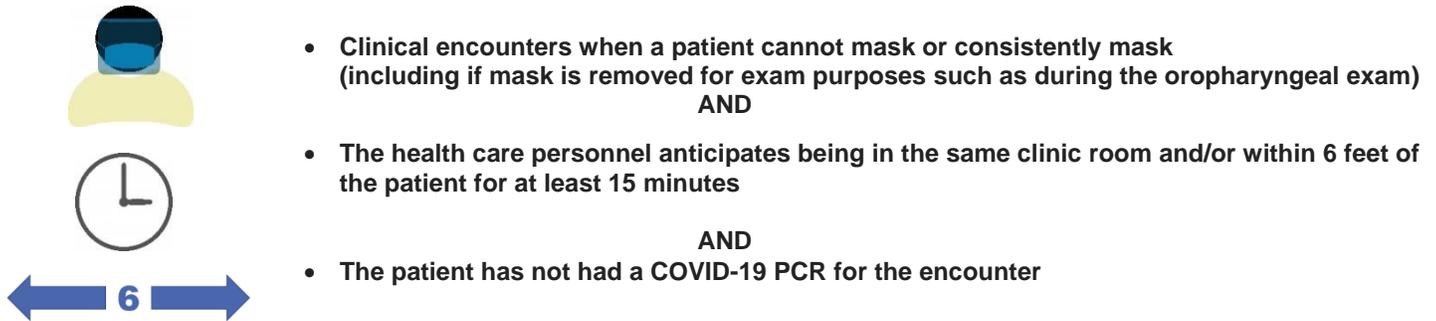


Expanded use of Face Shields for Specific Ambulatory Clinical Situations

UCSF Health has a multifaceted approach to healthcare personnel safety during the COVID pandemic including screening, universal masking, and for specific encounters COVID testing. However, not all ambulatory patients can mask nor are tested for COVID-19 for their encounter.

UCSF is directing symptomatic and pre-procedure patients to be tested at the [Respiratory Screening Clinics](#) or [Mobile unit](#) prior to their encounter. For added protection, healthcare personnel should add eye protection (e.g., face shields) to universal masking in the following ambulatory scenarios for asymptomatic patients in the clinic:



Face shields are preferred, but if not available, other hospital-issued eye protection is also acceptable.

Face shields do not replace the recommendation for social distancing, screening, and universal masking.

Health care personnel should follow the current recommendations of the [extended use and reuse guidance](#):

- It is acceptable to extend the use of the face shield between patient interactions
- When removing the face shield, inspect and clean the face shield per the current recommendations
- It is acceptable to re-use the face shield for multiple days as long as the face shield is not cracked or damaged



Remember that eye protection is required for:

- Any patients on Droplet Isolation
- As part of Standard Precautions if anticipating splashes or sprays of blood or other body fluids



Expanded use of Face Shields for Specific Ambulatory Clinical Situations- FAQ

1) Why are face shields protective?

In simulation studies, face shields when used alone can substantially reduce exposure risk. Face shields have been shown to decrease surface contamination of the surgical mask, and act as a physical barrier to deter healthcare personnel from directly touching their face. Face shields do not replace the need to wear a surgical mask at all times and to practice physical distancing.

2) Why are face shields being recommended now?

During the COVID pandemic, we have adopted a multipronged approach to maximize healthcare personnel and patient safety. This includes the universal masking program, symptom and exposure pre-visit and lobby screening, COVID testing for specific encounters/procedures, and social distancing. Face shields can offer an added layer of protection for healthcare personnel in the ambulatory setting.

Expanded use of Face Shields for Specific Ambulatory Clinical Situations- FAQ

- 3) Are face shields the only type of acceptable eye protection?**
No. Face shields are preferred, but if not available, other hospital issued eye protection is also acceptable
- 4) Do I need to wear a surgical mask if I am wearing a face shield?**
Yes. Face shields do not replace the need to wear a surgical mask at all times and practice social distancing.
- 5) If a patient has symptoms concerning for COVID-19 but can remain masked, should I wear a face shield?**
Yes. Under transmission based isolation a patient with COVID-19 symptoms should be cared for using Droplet and Contact isolation (surgical mask, face shield, gloves, and gown) irrespective of their ability to wear a surgical mask. If the patient is anticipated to have an aerosol generating procedure, follow the [Guidance for Aerosol Generating Procedures](#) to use an N95 or PAPR instead of a surgical mask.
- 6) What are examples of patients who cannot wear a surgical mask?**
Pediatric patients ≤ 2 years of age should not be masked. Other examples of patients who cannot mask include other young pediatric patients who cannot reliably mask, patients with cognitive disabilities, patients with underlying medical conditions or those undergoing examination/procedures that require mask removal.
- 7) What if the patient (and/or visitor/caretaker) is incorrectly wearing the mask or keeps removing it?**
Teach patients and visitors how to wear a mask appropriately and remind them to leave it on for the duration of their visit. Masks protect both the patient and healthcare personnel from spreading COVID-19.
- 8) If I am checking in an asymptomatic patient is it recommended I wear a face shield?**
No. A face shield is not necessary for checking in an *asymptomatic* patient because it is a brief encounter, the healthcare personnel is masked, 6 ft distance should be maintained, and in some clinics a protective plastic barrier is in place.
- 9) If I am rooming an asymptomatic patient is it recommended I wear a face shield?**
No. A face shield is not necessary for rooming an *asymptomatic* patient because it is a brief encounter, the healthcare personnel is masked, and a 6 ft distance should be maintained.
- 10) If I will work with multiple patients who cannot mask or need to remove their mask, can I leave my face shield on for my clinic shift?**
Yes. If you anticipate needing the face shield for multiple or sequential patients you can leave your face shield on between patients under the [extended use guidance](#). If your face shield become soiled during the course of the day, please remove and clean it.
- 11) Should I re-use my face shield?**
Yes. Please follow the [extended use and reuse guidance](#). Of note, the face shield should be cleaned, stored in a clean/dry place, and used over multiple days. Inspect it prior to each use and discard and replace if the face shield is cracked or damaged. The face shield should be cleaned using a hospital approved disinfectant following the appropriate dwell time. After the appropriate dwell time, the face shield can be wiped down with soap/water OR an alcohol pad to remove any residue left behind.
- 12) How is our supply chain of face shields?**
We currently have a large supply of face shields to accommodate this recommendation. We also have a supply which includes 3D printed face shields. In order to maintain an adequate supply, extended use and reuse are important.
- 13) How do I order more face shields?**
Initially, each clinic will receive one box of face shields. Each clinic will be responsible for ordering additional face shields as needed by their clinic.