
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT WEARING GLOVES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Q: Does CDC recommend wearing gloves to prevent COVID-19?

A: No. The CDC recommends the public wear a cloth face covering or mask when unable to stay at least 6 feet away from others, but does not recommend routine glove use.

Q: Does wearing gloves prevent my hands from picking up germs and lower my chances of getting sick with COVID-19?

A: Probably not. Studies show that wearing gloves increases germs on surfaces, which increases the risk to self and others. Most people studied removed their gloves incorrectly or did not clean their hands, causing more germs to be on the person taking off gloves.

Q: Will UCSF give me new gloves if I remove them for screening today?

A: No. UCSF does not support glove use for routine use by the public and is not able to provide replacements. We offer many opportunities for you to clean your hands, and support you cleaning your hands often! This is to help minimize the risk to yourself and others from routinely wearing gloves.

Q: What if I choose to keep my gloves on at screening today?

A: Everyone is required to clean their hands upon entry, which cannot be done with gloves on. You may not be allowed to come into the building or area if you do not remove your gloves and clean your hands.

Q: Why can't I wash or sanitize my gloves?

A: Sanitizing gloves with a disinfectant or alcohol gel can damage the glove material and make the gloves ineffective. It also gives the wearer a false sense of security that they are clean.

Q: Where can I find more information about CDC guidance for using personal protective equipment in public?

A: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/) has many recommendations for face coverings and strategies for frequent hand cleaning and surface cleaning to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Q: Why do the screeners wear gloves, but I can't?

A: Screeners are required to clean their hands often and wear gloves for certain tasks (such as when cleaning their station with sanitation wipes or passing out masks). They have been instructed on how to take them off safely and clean their hands after removal.