
Thursday, August 12, 2021

UCSF COVID-19 Update

Dear UCSF Community,

Today, [San Francisco Mayor London Breed announced a new public health order](#) that requires businesses in high-contact indoor settings, including bars, restaurants, clubs and theaters, indoor gyms and fitness centers, to obtain proof of vaccination from their customers before being allowed entry. This policy becomes effective Friday, Aug. 20, 2021. By that same date, those businesses must use their best efforts to ascertain the vaccination status of their employees. To preserve jobs while allowing extra time for compliance, the proof of vaccination requirement for employees goes into effect Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021.

UCSF is reviewing this new order to determine the impacts on campus and UCSF Health operations and will communicate any changes once approved by leadership. Meanwhile, as we experience a fourth surge of this pandemic, we continue to revise our policies based on public health guidance to limit transmission of the virus. Please see these updates regarding indoor events and patient visitors, as well as information about the Oct. 1, 2021 return-to-work date for remote workers and booster shots.

1. UCSF Temporarily Halts Non-Essential Indoor Events – NEW

In response to the recent rise of the highly contagious Delta variant, UCSF is reinstating restrictions on indoor events. This policy will be re-evaluated in mid-September. Here are the changes, which are effective immediately:

- Non-essential indoor events and meetings are temporarily not allowed through Sept. 30, 2021

- Food at essential indoor events is not permitted through Sept. 30, 2021
- Any event or meeting that can be convened virtually should be held online
- Outdoor events are still allowed for up to 24 people, but should be considered carefully to avoid crowds during this surge in COVID-19 cases
- All visitors at UCSF onsite events must be vaccinated; the University does not accept declinations or exemptions for visitors to the campus
- No events indoors or outdoors for groups of 25 or over
- Authority for exceptions to this events policy may be granted by UCSF leaders in the positions of deans, vice chancellors, vice presidents and above

2. UCSF Health Implements New CDPH Orders for Visitors – NEW

In response to increasing COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state, [the California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) announced a new state order](#) – effective Aug. 11, 2021 – requiring all hospital visitors to provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or documentation of negative COVID-19 test results (72 hours) prior to visiting.

This public health order applies to all visitors to UCSF Health and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals inpatients, emergency department patients, and patients undergoing major procedures. Outpatient sites are not included at this time. Essential caregivers are exempt from this requirement. UCSF Health has revised its visitation guidelines. For more information, please see:

- [UCSF Health guidelines for hospital visitors](#)
- [UCSF Health guidelines for visiting patients in outpatient areas](#)

3. UCSF to Announce Decision on Return-to-Work Date – NEW

UCSF leaders are monitoring the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in the community before making a decision about whether to extend the Oct. 1, 2021, return-to-work date for workers who can continue to do their jobs remotely. A decision about that date is expected to be announced later this month so that employees and learners have time to plan for child and dependent care.

4. UCSF Monitors Science on Booster Shots – NEW

UCSF leaders are closely following the evolving science and guidance about the role for booster shots for those who have received COVID-19 vaccines. Here's what you should know:

- The University continues to align with the U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention's guidance and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommendations, as well as state and local public health recommendations on booster shots.

- UCSF does not recommend booster shots for any of the three COVID-19 vaccines at this time.
- All three vaccines authorized for emergency use by the FDA continue to be extremely effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalizations and death.
- UCSF teams are preparing to be able to administer booster shots to employees, learners and patients at campus locations should they be recommended by public health agencies.

5. Department of Medicine COVID-19 Grand Rounds – NEW

Join experts for a special edition of [UCSF Department of Medicine COVID-19 Grand Rounds on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021 at noon](#) as they discuss cross-cutting issues that are making this new surge in the pandemic challenging to navigate. Speakers will include:

- Virologist Shane Crotty, PhD, of the La Jolla Institute, will talk about the Delta variant and what makes it different. He'll also address the efficacy of vaccines against Delta, the prospect of boosters, and the potential for new variants in the future.
- Infectious Disease expert Carlos Del Rio, MD, of Emory University, will describe the current state of the pandemic in the U.S. and worldwide, and offer his perspective on non-pharmacologic interventions, such as masking, vaccinations, boosters, and the path forward.

6. Aug. 20 COVID-19 Response Town Hall – NEW

Join UCSF leaders at the COVID-19 Response Town Hall on [Friday, Aug. 20, 2021 at 4 p.m. via Zoom](#) as they discuss the increase in COVID-19 cases in the UCSF community and around the country. Recordings of all Friday COVID-19 town halls are [posted online](#).

7. Sept. 1 Deadline Approaches for Vaccination Compliance – REMINDER

The deadline for complying to the [University of California's recently released vaccination policy](#) is fast approaching on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021. Here are the highlights:

- All faculty, staff, students, trainees, contractors, vendors and volunteers, as well as newly hired employees, who come to work or study on a UCSF

campus, must comply with this vaccination policy.

- If you have not been vaccinated, please do so as soon as possible to help protect your health and safety and that of our community. [UCSF offers drop-in vaccination at several campus locations.](#)
- If you previously declined the COVID-19 vaccination or took no previous action and wish to request an exception, you will now need to do so by the Sept. 1 deadline. To request an exception, [go to the OHS website to download, complete and upload a form.](#) All requests for exceptions will be reviewed and either approved or declined by the appropriate UCSF department in approximately three business days.
- Students requesting a COVID-19 exemption, exception or deferral must submit forms through the OHS website. For more information, [visit the Student Health and Counseling Services website.](#)
- BCH Oakland will issue its policy later in August, with an expected effective date of Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021. BCH Oakland policy will be similar to the UC-wide and UCSF COVID-19 vaccination policy, with some elements tailored to BCH Oakland.
- For more information about the policy, please visit the [coronavirus website for a list of questions and answers](#) or send an email to vaccineresponsibleoffice@ucsf.edu.

8. UCSF to Host COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A Webinar – REMINDER

UCSF will host a virtual [COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A webinar on Monday, Aug. 16, 2021 at noon](#) to address questions and concerns about the vaccines in a confidential manner.

- This forum will be moderated by Renee Navarro, MD, PharmD, vice chancellor for the Office of Diversity & Outreach, and will feature UCSF experts Malcolm John, MD, professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, and Alicia Fernandez, MD, director of the UCSF Latinx Center of Excellence.
- Employees and learners will be able to ask any questions or raise any concerns they have about the three COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use.

9. UCSF Expands Access to Color Testing – REMINDER

To expedite COVID-19 testing amid a surge in COVID-19 cases, UCSF has expanded access to testing through Color for employees and learners who have symptoms but have not been exposed to COVID-19. Previously, Color testing was only available to those without symptoms. Here's what you need to

know:

- Take the [daily health screener before you come to UCSF](#), before you tap your badge in at an electronic badge reader inside or outside a UCSF building.
- **Do not come to campus if you have symptoms**, including mild ones – even if you are vaccinated.
 - If you have symptoms, without a known exposure to someone with COVID-19 and do not want to wait for the COVID Hotline to get back to you, for the short term you can take a Color test. Please do not use the vending machines to access Color tests if you have symptoms.
 - The Laurel Heights drive-through testing site and the Respiratory Screening Clinics at Parnassus Heights and Mount Zion are the only [acceptable locations](#) to access Color tests when you have symptoms.
 - If your test is positive, don't come to work. You will get a call from Occupational Health Services (OHS).
 - If your test is negative, don't come to work. OHS will contact you about your return-to-work clearance.
- At UCSF BCH Oakland, if you have symptoms or do not pass the daily health screener, please contact Employee Health at 510.428.3620, option 4.
- At UCSF Fresno, if you have symptoms, please visit the COVID-19 Equity Project testing clinic at 550 E. Shaw Ave. in Fresno.

10. UCSF Mandatory Quarantine After Exposure to COVID – REMINDER

Employees and learners who have been exposed to a person with confirmed COVID-19 in their household are required to undergo a 10-day quarantine until cleared for work or study by OHS or [Student Health and Counseling Services](#). Transmission rates are highest in households due to intensity and duration of exposure to the virus.

Employees and learners with unprotected, prolonged exposure (within six feet for 15 minutes or longer) to a person with confirmed COVID-19 infection should call the COVID Hotline at (415) 514-7328 for assessment and instructions, regardless of vaccination status. Students should [send a secure message to the COVID-19 nurse through their personal health portal](#).

11. UCSF Reinstates Indoor Masking Policy – REMINDER

With cases of COVID-19 rising locally and increasing circulation of the highly transmissible Delta variant, UCSF and BCH Oakland reinstated their indoor masking policies to limit the spread of the virus.

- Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask or face covering at all indoor locations at UCSF, except while eating and drinking. Masks are also required in campus shuttles or standing in line for shuttles. Physical distancing should be maintained (at least six feet, when possible) when eating and drinking on campus.
- As a reminder, for masks/face coverings to work properly, they need to completely cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face and around your nose.
- This revised policy is based on recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local public health guidance.

12. UCSF Offers Drop-in Vaccination Sites – REMINDER

While nearly 90 percent of faculty, staff and learners have been vaccinated, UCSF continues to encourage all others to get vaccinated. UCSF offers several drop-in vaccination locations where employees and students may just walk in to get a vaccine. Here are the locations:

- Parnassus Heights campus: 505 Parnassus Avenue, Moffitt Hospital, Park Room M 286, Tuesdays, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays, from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Mount Zion campus: 2356 Sutter Street, Ida's Café, first floor, Wednesdays, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Mission Bay campus:
 - 1825 4th Street, fourth floor, Mondays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
 - Rutter Building, 1675 Owens Street, Student Health Services and Counseling Services (SHCS), Third Floor, Room 330, Wednesdays through Sept. 29, 2021 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- UCSF Fresno campus: COVID-19 Equity Project, 550 East Shaw Ave., Fresno.
- BCH Oakland: Employees can drop in without an appointment at the vaccine clinic in the basement of the BCH Oakland Outpatient Center, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Employees can also schedule a vaccine appointment by logging into [MyChart](#).

13. Complete the Daily Health Screener – REMINDER

Everyone complete the new COVID-19 health screening tool before coming to campus. The screener can be found on the UCSF Mobile App, or online at www.ucsfhealth.org/daily-health-screening. Among the highlights:

- Employees without a smartphone can go through the aforementioned website or, for now, continue to go to the manual screeners located at main entrances.
- Once cleared for work, employees and learners can simply tap their UCSF Identification (ID) badge at any electronic badge reader before entering a building.
- More badge readers will be added at UCSF locations in the coming months.
- Employees UCSF BCH Oakland will continue to show the pass to ambassadors or the security desk.
- Employees at UCSF Fresno will continue to use the current badge reader for entry and show the pass at the security desk. More information will be available soon.

For general information about UCSF's COVID-19 recovery efforts, please visit the [UCSF COVID-19 website](#). For questions related to recovery efforts, please contact [UCSF Emergency Management](#). You can also sign up to receive text alerts about the latest COVID-19 news by texting "UCSF" to 333 111.

Don't forget! All UCSF personnel must complete the daily health screening before coming to campus—every day that you plan to be onsite. Visit www.ucsfhealth.org/daily-health-screening for more information.



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