

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) HOT TOPIC: Masking & Distancing for Vaccinated/Unvaccinated Healthcare Workers

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), better known as Cal/OSHA, sets and enforces standards in California. On June 17th, Cal/OSHA approved the updated COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS), providing guidance for employees that have/have not received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Area*	Vaccinated	Unvaccinated
Outdoors	No mask or distancing	No distancing; mask <i>recommended</i> if <6 feet from others
Indoor: non-patient care area**	No mask or distancing	<i>Must</i> mask. Distance only if unmasked for eating/drinking
Indoor: patient care area This includes workrooms, breakrooms, and conference rooms <i>embedded within</i> patient care areas (see chart below)	<i>Must</i> mask & distance NOTE: for workrooms, breakrooms, and conference rooms <i>embedded within</i> patient care areas, if 100% of occupants are vaccinated, no masking or distancing required.	<i>Must</i> mask & distance

* See chart on p3 for building and area designations

** Includes employee UCI shuttles and van pools

Q: Do I still need to wear a mask?

Vaccinated workers must wear a UCI Health provided regular mask anytime they are in a patient care area but are not required to wear a mask in dedicated non-patient care areas, shuttles/work vehicles, or when outdoors. Note that employee-only workrooms, breakrooms, and conference rooms embedded within patient care areas are considered patient care areas. Vaccinated individuals can be identified by two green badge tags.

Unvaccinated workers must wear masks in all indoor locations on UCI property, including UCI owned vehicles/shuttles/vanpools with multiple persons. Employees that are granted exemptions from Human Resources to the UC COVID vaccine policy are considered unvaccinated.

- For patient care areas, UCI issued medical masks must be worn.
- For non-patient care areas, workers must follow mask etiquette if wearing masks from home, or they can request to be provided with either standard masks or N95 respirators by their supervisor.
- It is also recommended, but not required, that they wear a mask outdoors when within 6-feet of another person.

(COVID-19) HOT TOPIC – COVID Guidance in the Workplace

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Q: Can I wear a mask in non-patient care areas if I am vaccinated?

Yes, UCI Health is fully supportive of any vaccinated worker who chooses to voluntarily wear a mask in non-patient care areas in addition to the mandatory requirement to wear a mask in patient care areas. For non-patient care areas, they must follow mask etiquette if wearing masks from home, or they can request to be provided with either standard masks or N95 respirators by their supervisor.

Q: I was just vaccinated, when can I stop masking?

For the purposes of Cal/OSHA rules, you are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after the last dose of any FDA authorized or approved vaccine. Until then, you should assume you are not protected by the vaccine.

Q: Do I still need to physically distance from others?

In patient care areas, all workers (regardless of vaccination status) are expected to distance 6 feet, or as much as possible, from other persons, as able in their usual workflow. This includes workrooms, breakrooms, and conference rooms embedded in patient care areas, with the exception that if all occupants are fully vaccinated, they do not need to mask or socially distance. If an unvaccinated person is present in a workroom, breakroom, or conference room, then all must mask, except when eating or drinking, and unvaccinated persons must distance 6 feet from others at all times.

In indoor or outdoor non-patient care areas, vaccinated workers do not need to socially distance (or mask). Unvaccinated workers only need to socially distance by ≥ 6 feet when unmasked (e.g. eating or drinking).

Q: Do I still need to screen upon entry to UCI Health premises?

Yes. All workers must participate in symptom and temperature screening when entering UCI Health premises.

Q: What other measures should I do to protect myself?

Hand hygiene is key to preventing transmission of infections and is an important part of preventing COVID-19 infection in healthcare settings and in the community.

Cleaning environmental surfaces that are touched by multiple people is also an important measure to prevent the spread of infection. Wear a mask if you are mildly ill and working within the Occupational Health Services working well policy.

Q: Do patients and visitors still need to mask?

Yes. Patients and visitors, independent of vaccination status, are required to mask in patient care areas when on UCI premises.

Table of UCI Health Patient Care Designations

UCI Health Location	Patient Care Area*	Non-Patient Care Area
Douglas Hospital – 34-38, pharmacy suite, patient experience suite, loading dock/receiving, equipment pool, SPD		X
Douglas Hospital – all other areas, including all elevators, public hallways, cafeteria	X	
Tower/ED	X	
Bldg 3 (Neuropsych/ARU)	X	
Radiology/Nikken Center (20, 22B) CDDC (22C), Chao (Floors 1-3) (23)	X	
Chao – 4 th Floor (Bldg 23)		X
Pavilion 3 – 2 nd Floor		X
Pavilion – All Others	X	
Burn/Wound Clinic (50)	X	
Bldg 54 – Clinical Laboratory (Floors 1-4)		X
Bldg 54 – Administrative (Floor 5)		X
All other buildings on Orange campus		X
Manchester – Floors 1, 6	X	
Manchester – Floors 2-5, 7, 8		X
Chapman Pavilion – 5 th Floor	X	
City Tower		X
ACC		X
Gottschalk	X	
Gavin Eye Institute – 3rd floor		X
Gavin Eye Institute – Garden, 1st floor	X	
Beckman – clinical areas	X	
UCI Health ambulatory clinics - All	X	

For clarifications or requests for changes in designation, contact EIP at 714-456-5221. All changes must be approved.