Dear Students:

Well, we certainly live in dynamic times! UCSF and its affiliates are deep in planning for vaccine distribution and enhanced testing protocols.

Today, the Chancellor provided UCSF’s approach to these important advances in managing the COVID pandemic. Specific details such as vaccination timing will be forthcoming and announced on a rolling basis.

From a student perspective, what we can tell you at this time is that:

- All UCSF School of Medicine students currently enrolled in UCSF SOM will be vaccinated by UCSF Health, except for the SJV PRIME students starting their Fresno training in January, who will be vaccinated in Fresno.

- Students enrolled at the UC Berkeley Joint Medical Program will be vaccinated according to UC Berkeley protocols.

- UCSF School of Medicine students in Career Launch, Foundations 2, and Foundations 1 will be integrated into the first phase of vaccine administration (known as phase 1a), with priority based on the intensity of clinical exposure. Students without curricular clinical experiences (e.g., MSTP students in the graduate phase of their training and LOA students) will be vaccinated in subsequent phases.

- You will have a vaccine record created in the UCSF Health Apex EMR regardless of where you receive your primary care. You will receive a request to activate MyChart so that you can be contacted for vaccination and testing.

- Vaccine status will not change your requirement for strict adherence to masking and social distancing on campus and in your personal lives until the public health authorities and health care system declare a change in these directives. Educational plans will continue to follow these directives in alignment with these authorities as well.

- You will not be required to take the vaccine, but you will be required to document a decision about taking the vaccine.

- We are expecting easier testing for symptomatic people and increased access to testing for asymptomatic members of the UCSF community.

We know you have many questions and we ask for your patience as more answers become available. We will regularly disseminate decisions and connect you to the relevant UCSF websites.

We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you to carefully read all messages from the Chancellor and UCSF Health leadership and listen to the campus COVID Town Halls. This is the best way for you to stay abreast of updates during these very dynamic times.

- UCSF Vaccine Hub
- UCSF COVID Town Halls Recordings

Please realize that we are in the midst of a serious surge of a very serious disease. Please be extra vigilant about following PPE directives in the clinical environment and also follow the most current SFDPH directives to wear a mask at all times, maintain physical distance from others, suspend all indoor gatherings and limit outdoor gatherings to a maximum of 2 people from different households. Your adherence to these directives can not only protect you but protect others in our community. Please do your part!
Stay healthy, stay grounded and stay informed!

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UCSF COVID 19 Response