

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO**  
**Information about COVID-19 Screening for Participants in Research**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UCSF is trying to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect the safety of research participants and research teams. There is a new policy at UCSF that requires research participants to get screened for COVID-19 symptoms before any in-person research visits take place.

**COVID-19 Screening Procedure**

A member of the research team will contact you before your study visit to ask you if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have possibly been exposed to the virus. They may or may not ask you to answer these questions online or on a phone app. These questions will be asked again when you arrive at your study visit. Here are some examples of the type of questions you will be asked:

1. In the past 30 days, have you or someone you live with been diagnosed with COVID-19?
2. In the past 14 days, have you been in unprotected close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19? (Unprotected= without face covering; Close contact = within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer)
3. In the past 14 days, have you returned from travel outside the U.S.?
4. Have you had any of these symptoms in the past 24 hours or in the past 14 days which is new or not explained by pre-existing conditions (e.g. allergies)?
  - Fever, Chills, Shivering/Shakes (Fever= temperature above 100°F)
  - Cough
  - Sore throat
  - Runny or congested nose
  - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
  - Unexplained muscle aches
  - Feeling unusually weak or fatigued
  - Loss of sense of smell or taste
  - Diarrhea (defined as 3 or more loose stools in 24 hours)
  - Eye redness with or without discharge (“pink eye”)

The questions you are asked may be slightly different than the ones listed above, depending on the main risk factors at the time of your screening. None of the questions will be about sensitive personal information or illegal activities.

If you answer “Yes” to any of the screening questions, it means there *may be a chance* that you have been exposed to COVID-19. As a safety precaution, your research visit will be postponed and you will be asked to contact your primary medical care doctor. The study team will reschedule your research appointment or schedule a telephone or web-based visit instead of an in-person visit.

### **Risks Associated with COVID-19 Screening**

While a YES answer to any of the screening questions does not mean that you have a diagnosis of COVID-19, it may be upsetting to learn that you may have been exposed to the virus and that you need to follow-up with your primary care doctor. Your doctor may recommend that you get tested for COVID-19.

### **Privacy and Confidentiality**

Your answers to the screening questions will be noted in your research record. Depending on the study, they may also be entered into your medical record. Unless the research team tells you otherwise, your answers to the COVID-19 screening questions are not part of the research. This information is only being used as a UCSF safety precaution for in-person visits.

### **Questions?**

If you have questions about the research study or about the COVID-19 screening procedures, please contact the study team. Contact information for the study team is included in the Consent Form for this study.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please call the UCSF Institutional Review Board at (415) 476-1814.

If you have questions about COVID-19, please call the UCSF Health COVID-19 hotline at 415-514-7328. You can also find additional by searching these websites:

- UCSF websites: <https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/patients>
- San Francisco Department of Public Health: <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus.asp>