COVID-19 Update for Clinicians

July 28, 2021

(Google Chrome is the recommended browser for the best reader experience.)


- **CDC Recommends Return to Masking Indoors:** In an attempt to reduce the spread of the delta variant, the CDC is recommending that fully vaccinated people resume wearing masks indoors when in areas of “high” or “substantial” risk of COVID transmission, which can be the case in two-thirds of U.S. counties. Learn more here.

- **COVID Status Update:** We are closely watching the increase in COVID cases, including at least a three-fold increase in hospitalizations across our network. These increases are significant enough that Sutter Health has returned to critical care level 4. We are also monitoring any changes in guidelines related to these increases and the spread of the highly contagious delta variant—and the demands they place on our integrated network of care. We cannot let down our guard in protecting our workforce, our patients and our communities. To that end, below are a few very important reminders:
  - The vast majority of these COVID-positive patients are unvaccinated. Please do what you can to help drive up vaccination rates among our peers, our patients and our communities. We encourage you to share this FAQ with vaccine-hesitant patients to assist with questions and address common concerns.
  - At Sutter, we require face coverings in all our locations for everyone.
  - Other infection prevention protocols, including physical distancing and proper hand hygiene, remain in place.
  - Be mindful of your own health and stay home if you are sick. Read more.

- **Updated Testing Procedures for All Hospital Admissions:** Due to the increase in COVID-19 positivity rates, and out of an abundance of caution, we
are increasing testing to include all admissions to the hospital as well as all patients who are scheduled to undergo a high-hazard AGP only, regardless of vaccination status. Please refer to the Know Do Share for additional information.

- **What is Your Sutter EHR Experience?**: Your candid feedback can help us improve your EHR experience. We are conducting a brief survey you can take now until the end of July by clicking this link. Because we want to make your experience exceptional, Sutter Health has chosen KLAS Research as a survey partner. The KLAS Arch Collaborative is a national effort to benchmark clinicians' EHR experiences.

- **COVID-19 Updates to Sutter EHR**: Sutter’s Information Services team works hard to make COVID-19-related EHR changes and then notify users. The latest such Special System Notices include updates on vaccinating patients in the emergency department and COVID close-contact screenings.

- **Virtual Grand Rounds Webinars**: Click here to check out and register for the latest webinars in Sutter Health’s Continuing Education (CE) series. These webinars are hosted by Sutter Health network clinicians for all medical professionals across Northern California.

- **Resources for your Well-being**: Sutter’s Joy of Work team offers a variety of wellness resources for clinicians that you can view here. Please note you must be on the Sutter network to access the site.

- **COVID-19 Resource Page for Clinicians**: This COVID-19 Clinician Resource Page is intended for all physicians and advanced practice clinicians who care for Sutter patients, and can be opened from inside or outside the Sutter network.

- **If Reporters Call**: Please refer them to the Sutter Health media line at 1-800-428-7377. We have communications professionals at the ready to field questions and supply information.

- **Related Links**
  - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
  - California Department of Public Health
  - White House Task Force
  - World Health Organization

This communication is intended only for clinicians caring for Sutter patients. Please do not distribute or share outside of the intended audience.