

SAFETY



BULLETIN

September 11, 2020

UCSF Responds to Changing Air Quality Due to Wildfire Smoke Update#2

UCSF leaders and emergency management teams are monitoring fluctuating air quality in the Bay Area due to widespread wildfires to help protect the safety and security of employees, learners and patients.

Air quality in San Francisco, Oakland, and Fresno continues to change based on conditions between moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups, unhealthy and very unhealthy. Forecasts suggest current poor air quality conditions could persist over the weekend and into next week.

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

In response to fluctuating air quality, UCSF is taking the following actions:

- UCSF has curtailed all non-essential outdoor work. All essential outdoor workers have been provided N95 masks.
- Staff from UCSF's Environment, Health & Safety continue to conduct air monitoring in buildings across campus and UCSF Health. Due to the mechanically filtered air, the air quality found inside UCSF's buildings continues to be better than ambient conditions outdoors.

Together for a Safe and Crime-Free Campus

Mike Denson
Chief of Police

This alert is a public service to the University community and in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act

N95 Mask Distribution

When the air quality is determined to be very unhealthy or hazardous, UCSF will make N95 masks available to those employees and learners who request them due to respiratory conditions or sensitivity to smoke when outdoors. N95 masks will be available to those who have UCSF ID badges at the following locations:

Monday through Friday:

- San Francisco Occupational Health
- UCSF Fresno Facilities Services

Monday through Friday and weekends:

- UC Police Department: 654 Minnesota Street or Mission Center Building
- Parnassus Heights campus, please call (415) 476-1414 (*UC Police non-emergency line*)
- UCSF Benioff Children's Oakland Hospital Supervisor

Employees with underlying medical conditions should consult their physicians or [Occupational Health Services](#) and students should consult [UCSF Student Health and Counseling Services](#).

Those working inside UCSF Health facilities must continue to follow [COVID-19 masking procedures](#). Voluntary use of N95 masks is not permitted inside UCSF Health hospitals and clinics.

Use N95 masks sparingly in accordance with the section above, since they are no substitute for being indoors and should be prioritized for essential workers. [Follow these instructions on N95 use](#).

Tips to Protect Yourself Against Smoke

The best way to protect yourself from poor air quality on smoky days is to:

- Stay indoors with doors and windows closed
- At home, use a HEPA filter if possible to maintain a clean-air safe room
- Stay hydrated by drinking water during heavy smoke events
- Avoid adding air pollution by curtailing wood burning, barbecuing, etc.
- Set air conditioning units and care vent systems to re-circulate air to prevent outside air from coming inside
- Use a HEPA filter if possible to maintain a clean-air safe room
- Stay informed by signing up for alerts in your area

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- Check the air quality index (AQI) in their area by visiting the Environmental Protection Agency's [AirNow website](#)

Stay Informed

- More information about UCSF's wildfire and air quality response will be updated as soon as possible [online](#).
- Managers have received information from HR about how to respond to questions and requests from impacted employees.
- Sign up for [UCSF WarnMe](#) and include your cellphone number for UCSF emergency alerts and notifications.

Contact Information:

- Emergency: Dial **911**
- Hospital Supervisor
 - UCSF Parnassus: 415-353-8036
 - UCSF Mission Bay: 415-502-0728
 - BCH-OAK: 510-428-6997
- Hospital Security
 - SF: 415-885-7890
 - BCH-OAK: 510-428-3600
- Hospital Facilities
 - SF: 415-514-3570
 - BCH-OAK: 510-428-3291
- Campus Facilities
 - SF: 415-476-2021
 - Fresno: 559-313-9661

Help fight crime by reporting suspicious persons and/or suspicious activity to UCSF PD immediately—race, gender, and religious affiliation are **NOT** considered suspicious. For emergency or in-progress events, dial **911** when using on-campus land lines and 415.476-6911 when using cell phones. For non-emergency calls, please dial 415.476-1414.

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