

ROUNDUP



Hospital & Clinics | May 2023

Cultural Heritage Celebrations | Nurses' Week + Hospital Week | Dermatology

COVID STAND DOWN

How We're Moving Beyond the Public Health Emergency



ROUNDUP

Hospital & Clinics | February 2021



COVID-19: Vaccination Updates, Sustained Response Status



THIS ISSUE: Mike's Corner: 2021 Optimism | Record Transplant Volumes | Epic Clinical Support

OUR HEROES AT UI HEALTH, THANK YOU.

The strength and courage on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic are an inspiration. On behalf of all of us at UI Health — thank you.

TOGETHER, WE ARE KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE DURING COVID-19

Our staff, providers, and patients

You are our #1 priority.

Have you had the following symptoms in the past 7 days?
¿Ha tenido los siguientes síntomas en los últimos 7 días?



OTHER SYMPTOMS
Otros Síntomas

Heroes work here!

THE TOP 5 LIST

1. UNIVERSAL MASKING (continued) Keep it 100%! All employees should wear a mask or other facial covering in all areas where there is potential for contact with patients, visitors, or staff. All employees should wear a mask or other facial covering in all areas where there is potential for contact with patients, visitors, or staff. All employees should wear a mask or other facial covering in all areas where there is potential for contact with patients, visitors, or staff.

COVID-19 EVALUATION CLINIC

CLÍNICA DE EVALUACIÓN DE COVID-19

For faster entry for donors del edificio, se recomienda en la semana de la Calle 17. For medical staff, please contact the COVID-19 hotline at 847-822-2222. For more information, please contact the COVID-19 hotline at 847-822-2222. For more information, please contact the COVID-19 hotline at 847-822-2222.

UI Health | UIC

COVID STAND DOWN

How We're Moving Beyond the Public Health Emergency

At the end of the day Thursday, May 11, the Department of Health & Human Services ended the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency that had been in effect the past three years.

During that time, UI Health's Incident Command Structure implemented many actions to allow us to safely work and provide care — masking, COVID testing and return-to-work procedures, telehealth, virtual meetings, remote work, to name just a few. As we begin to stand down from the Public Health Emergency, we will be reviewing these response actions and deciding on the future state for each item. Some items may return to pre-COVID procedures; some may remain in a modified form; some may be eliminated.

Below are initial updates to our COVID-related policies, protocols, and rules.

Masking Guidance

UI Health will balance the health benefits and social impact of masking in the care space. We encourage masking as a preventative measure and will ensure masks are available for patients/visitors.

Masking Is:

- **OPTIONAL** in the following settings:
 - Public spaces and corridors
 - For routine clinical care
- **RECOMMENDED** in the following areas:
 - Emergency Department
 - Critical Care Units
 - Settings or locations where patients are likely to be immunosuppressed
 - If your patient is wearing a mask, consider asking them if they would like you to also wear a mask

- **REQUIRED** in the following scenarios:
 - Transmission-based isolation
 - Individuals with respiratory illness symptoms
 - If a patient requests that their care team or others entering their room wear a mask
 - Staff who return to work after testing positive for COVID-19 are required to wear a mask through day 10 from onset of illness

Patient COVID Testing

- We are no longer requiring a COVID test for admissions and for pre-procedure patients unless they have symptoms of infection.
- We are requiring a test for inpatient transfers only if they are symptomatic.
- In general, determination of need for patient testing is similar to our practice for influenza and other respiratory illnesses — when clinically indicated.
- We have discontinued testing for all patients seven (7) days after admission

Employee COVID Testing

- Voluntary saliva testing is no longer offered.
- Mandatory routine saliva testing is no longer required.
- Employees who test positive outside of UI Health no longer need to obtain confirmatory testing from UHS.

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing of employees has been discontinued.
- Infection Prevention is continuing to monitor for clusters or hospital-onset cases of COVID-19, similar to current

[\(continued next page\)](#)

Stand Down (continued)

practice with influenza and other respiratory diseases.

- After a patient exposure, staff are no longer be required to test unless there is an outbreak and contacted by Infection Prevention.

Return-To-Work

AS ALWAYS, STAY HOME IF SICK

• If you test positive for COVID-19:

- Staff no longer need to complete an intake in the Employee Portal (Immuware).
 - Staff should follow normal departmental call-in procedures.
 - Staff should self-quarantine at home and isolate from anyone who is living at home with them.
- Staff who test positive can return to work once they are out of the infectious period — at least five (5) days from the onset of symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result, whichever occurred first — and are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication with resolving symptoms/no wet symptoms of productive cough or runny nose.
 - Staff are required to wear a mask while at work for a total of 10 days from illness onset.
- If staff will be off work for more than three (3) scheduled days due to COVID illness, staff will be required to obtain clearance for return-to-work through UHS.

Plexiglass Barriers

Plexiglass barriers have begun to be removed in certain areas throughout the Hospital & Clinics; they will remain in certain areas, like the Emergency Department, where permanent barrier are needed but not yet implemented.

Excused Absence with Pay

- COVID-19 paid leave benefits are no longer be provided to cover absences beginning May 14, and thereafter, including COVID-related illnesses, childcare, and time off for obtaining and/or recovering from the COVID-19 vaccination. Instead, staff are required to use their own benefit time and follow departmental call-in procedures to cover such absences.
 - Management and staff should refer to the Sick Leave Policy and other Leave policies, as applicable. Absences of more than three (3) consecutive days or intermittent leave for a resulting serious medical condition may qualify for leave under FMLA.
- Leave Policy resources:
 - [My UI Info](#)
 - [Sick Leave](#)
 - [Academic Sick Leave](#)
 - [Policy 11 \(Excused Absences\)](#)

Employees diagnosed with COVID-19, and who have reasons to believe it was workplace exposure, should follow up with Worker's Compensation. Please contact the Human Resources Attendance Management Team, as needed, for assistance or consultation (uihloa@uic.edu).

Vaccination

- COVID-19 vaccination is still one of the most effective preventative measures against severe COVID. We will continue to have bivalent COVID vaccine available for any employee (at UHS) or patient (through their UI Health provider) while vaccine supplies last. ■

QUALITY & SAFETY TRANSFORMATION

True North Metric: Patient Experience/Transition of Care



DID YOU KNOW that UI Health calls every patient we discharge after they return home? We want to check on patients during their recovery, ensure they're following their care plan, have access to their medications, and address any concerns about their recent stay. Reports from these calls help increase awareness of opportunities for safe, more effective discharges.

Our Care Transition True North Metric looks at three HCAHPS survey questions regarding preparation of the patient for their transition home:

- During this hospital stay, did doctors, nurses, or other hospital staff talk with you about whether you would have the help you needed when you left the hospital?
- During this hospital stay, did you get information in writing about what symptoms or health problems to look out for after you left the hospital?
- When I left the hospital, I clearly understood the purpose for taking each of my medications.

True North Metric Progress: Care Transition

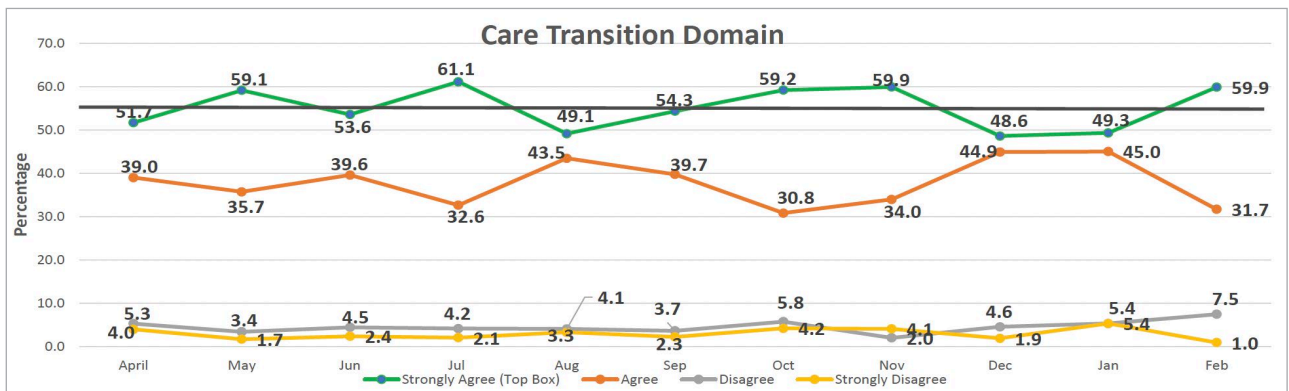
Top Box Score

Baseline (FY21Q4 - FY22Q3): **51.9**

Goal (FY22Q4 - FY23Q3): **53.0**

Stretch Goal: **55.0**

Current Score (FY22Q4-FY23Q4): **54.9**



How We Can Improve Care Transition

- Maximize the effectiveness of the bedside shift report. Review and discuss the discharge plan with both patients and their caregivers.
- Utilize the teach-back method and return demonstration to ensure patients and caregivers understand medication purpose, side effects, and administration.
- Reinforce the post-discharge care plan. Discuss and review the After Visit Summary with patients and caregivers.
- Patients discharged before 3 pm report a better experience than those discharged after 3 pm. Utilize the Discharge Lounge (x64939) to help patients discharge sooner. ■

SERVICE LINE UPDATES

UI Health Dermatology: Expert Advanced Skincare & Cosmetic Services

The Department of Dermatology is recognized for screening and treating advanced dermatological skin conditions. Now, Dermatology also offers some of the latest cosmetic treatments.

Dermatological services and treatments include Botox® injections, dermal fillers, chemical peels, body contouring, and laser treatments for a variety of skin concerns. A full listing of cosmetic skin therapies is available on the [department's website](#).

UI Health Dermatology treats a variety of skin tones and textures and understands that every patient has unique needs, concerns, and goals when it comes treating



their medical conditions or providing a cosmetic service or treatment.

Cosmetic procedures are available for all patients, including UI Health staff. To schedule a consult and learn about pricing options, visit the [Department of Dermatology](#) or 312.996.8666. ■

RECOGNITION

Celebrating Hospital Week!

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate a successful Hospital Week May 8-12! ■



RECOGNITION

2023 Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2023 Award of Merit; Attending, Resident/Fellow, and Advanced Practice Provider of the Year; and the Joseph V. Abraham Leadership Award**. To nominate an employee, please download a [nomination form](#) on the intranet and submit it along with a minimum of two letters of support. Nominations are being accepted through June 16.

An announcement of the award recipients will be made in August. For questions, please contact recognition@uic.edu. ■



ENGAGEMENT

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month



May is Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Join us in paying tribute to the generations of Asian American & Pacific Islanders that have enriched American history and healthcare. View our employee spotlights that detail how members of our community celebrate and recognize AAPI history. Learn more at [Celebrate.UIHealth.Care](#). ■

Jewish American Heritage Month

May is Jewish Heritage Month. Hear from Associate Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ari Rubinfeld in a discussion with the Office of Diversity & Community Health Equity as part of our celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month. [Listen Here](#). ■

UI Health Celebrates JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



One of our prominent UI Health staff members, Ari Rubinfeld MD, FACS, shares his thoughts on negotiating cultural and religious experiences as a Jewish American and his hope for a more inclusive UI Health.



EVENTS

Vitalant Blood Drive on June 7: Save lives. Donate Blood!

Vitalant is sponsoring a blood drive on campus June 7. Please consider donating, if you are able.

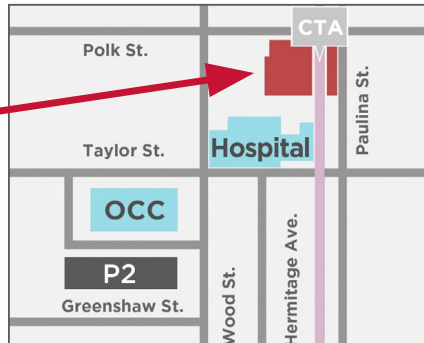
Wednesday, June 7

8 am - 2 pm

Parking Lot E

820 S. Paulina St.

(The Vitalant Bloodmobile will be set up at the walkway west of Lot E.)

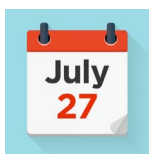


Registration is strongly encouraged. To schedule, please call Vitalant at 877.258.4825, scan the QR code or visit vitalant.org and use code **ORD0797B**.

EVENTS

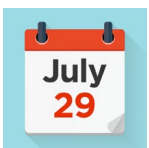
SAVE THE DATES

Mark Your Calendars Now for These Celebrations!



UI Health Employee Summer Party

JULY 27



55th & Pulaski Health Collaborative Open House

JULY 29