

2/16 COVID Update

Hi All,

Happy Tuesday and happy second day of break! Please see below about employment verification for vaccines, the CDC double masking study, and onsite testing.

Employment Verification Letter - Vaccine Eligibility

As many folks are beginning to set up appointments for vaccines, we have created a standard letter to verify your status as employed in the field of education. The locality/organization you use to get vaccinated may ask for proof of employment, so if you need one please contact me to request and indicate in the subject line that you are asking for an employment verification letter.

- ***San Francisco will start vaccinating educators/essential workers on 2/24.*** You can find information and links to book an appointment [here](#). Please note: some mass sites are temporarily pausing vaccinations due to low supply (see info [here](#)).
- ***Alameda County is currently vaccinating educators/essential workers.*** You can find information and links to book an appointment in Alameda County [here](#).
- ***You can sign up to check your eligibility [here](#).***

Double Masking

Recent news articles have been circulated recommending the practice of double masking, citing CDC findings indicating it reduces the amount of respiratory droplets spread by the wearer and provides added filtration protection for the wearer. You can view the full text of the research study [here](#). Please note the caveats/clarifications in the study:

- One important factor in a mask's effectiveness is **fit** - the mask must fit the wearer snugly around all edges. Metal nose bridges, tying knots in the ear loops, and plastic fitters can all increase a mask's seal around the face.
- Another factor is the mask's **thickness/material**, or actual ability to block particles.
- Wearing a cloth mask over a surgical mask can increase the effectiveness of the fit as well as add to the blocking power.
 - ***However, please note this study only tested a three-ply medical procedure mask (not all surgical masks sold online are three-ply) and a three-ply cotton mask (not all cotton masks sold online are three-ply) fit over an adult-sized face.*** Other combinations/types of masks may not provide the same level of protection.

COVID Testing

This is a reminder that the next on-campus testing event will take place on Wednesday, 2/24. Use [this link](#) to sign up and check the program calendar for time slots (the link is also in the program calendar).

If you look up your last confirmation email from Curative, you will see a code you can enter for your new appointment that will transfer your information so you do not have to re-enter.

Finally, please remember that testing is now required for all staff every two weeks. If you are able to, please take advantage of testing on campus. If you are not, ensure you are tested at the location of your convenience on the same dates as our on-campus testing. If you do not test, you will not be able to come to campus.

Best,
Chris