

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & SAFETY,
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE
ASBESTOS POLICY ON MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE**

Policy

Asbestos program employees are responsible for evaluating nearly all campus and medical center construction projects that may potentially impact hazardous building materials, including asbestos, and for providing recommendations to ensure identified hazardous materials are managed safely. This policy outlines the mandatory medical surveillance programs that are required for all asbestos program staff working in these environments.

Scope

The University of California, San Francisco requires that all members of the asbestos group, including contractors*, participate in the outlined medical surveillance requirements.

Required Procedures

It is the responsibility of the manager/supervisor to ensure that all staff with asbestos assignments are informed of the surveillance requirements, and that these requirements are fulfilled prior to beginning work, and annually thereafter, if required.

A. Medical Health Screening (MHS) Questionnaire

All employees of the asbestos program may have exposure to laboratory animals during their work and thus are required to complete this questionnaire annually. An Animal Exposure Work Clearance will be submitted to the individual and the individual's supervisor electronically.

B. Medical Surveillance Requirements (Annual)

Physical Exam – Members of the asbestos program must participate in an annual physical exam administered by the Occupational Health Services (OHS) Clinic.

The annual exam is to include:

- a. **Physical Examination** – Employees should receive a complete physical examination, which includes a discussion emphasizing possible risks to the respiratory, cardiovascular, and digestive tracts. During this examination, employees will also review possible secondary exposure risks to materials such as lead, mercury, silica dust, and PCBs, however minimal the exposure may be.

** Services to contract staff will be consistent with contractual requirements and established UCSF requirements. The vendor is responsible to ensure compliance with baseline and annual surveillance and baseline communicable disease immunity. In the event that Occupational Health Services (OHS) provides tuberculosis surveillance or required vaccinations to agency staff the vendor will be invoiced.*

- b. **Spirometry** – Per CalOSHA Code of Regulations Title 8, section 1529, all individuals exposed to asbestos through the course of their work must receive annual pulmonary function testing.
- c. **Chest X-Ray** – An annual chest x-ray is required for all employees over the age of 40 years old. Individuals under the age of 40 require an x-ray every three years.
- d. **Medical Questionnaire** – All asbestos program employees must complete an Initial Medical Questionnaire (available in the reference section of this policy) at their time of hire. Employees will be required to complete the shortened Periodic Medical Questionnaire (available in the reference section of this policy), annually thereafter.

C. UCSF Medical Center Patient Care or Clinical Area Exposure

Asbestos program employees are responsible for evaluating Medical Center construction projects. This may include occasional exposure to patient care areas. All staff with exposure to these areas is required to comply with the *Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control: Worker screening & immunization for vaccine-preventable diseases Policy 3.1*. The policy is available here:

<http://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/sites/infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/files/Sec%203.1%20HCW%20Screening.pdf>

- 1. **Tuberculosis Screening** – Tuberculosis screening must be completed on an annual basis. This requirement may be fulfilled during the annual physical or at any time at the Occupational Health Drop-in Clinic.
- 2. **Measles Immunity Screening** – Individuals must also provide one-time proof of measles immunity. Individuals may:
 - a. Visit the Occupational Health Services Clinic to be vaccinated OR
 - b. Have a blood sample drawn to measure antibody titer levels OR
 - c. Provide documentation of two (2) monovalent measles vaccines OR two (2) MMR vaccines
- 3. **Influenza Immunization** – All individuals working in the Medical Center must be vaccinated for influenza, annually. Employees may:
 - a. Visit the Occupational Health Services Clinic to be vaccinated OR
 - b. Sign and submit a written declaration form. (See References section of this policy)
- 4. **Tdap Immunization** – Individuals must also receive a Tdap vaccination for pertussis (whooping cough). Employees may:
 - a. Visit the Occupational Health Services Clinic to be vaccinated OR
 - b. Sign and submit a written declaration form. (See References section of this policy)

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References

For further information regarding any of the above requirements please see the:

- CalOSHA Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1529
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/1529.html>
- CalOSHA Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1529, Appendix D:
Part 1 – Initial Medical Questionnaire AND Part 2 – Periodic Medical Questionnaire
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/1529d.html>
- Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control: Worker Screening & Immunization for
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, Policy 3.1
<http://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/sites/infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/files/Sec%203.1%20HCW%20Screening.pdf>
- UCSF Communicable Disease Vaccination and Surveillance Policy
http://occupationalhealthprogram.ucsf.edu/Forms/UCSF_Communicable_Disease_Surveillance_Vaccination_Policy_FINAL.pdf
- Influenza Declination Form
<http://hrreporting.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/InfluenzaVaccine/>
- Tdap Declination Form
<http://hrreporting.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/Tdap/>

For Additional Information

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