Welcome to the latest COVID-19 update with information about how the University of California is responding and adapting to the pandemic, as well as campus, health center and national laboratory news.

**Ongoing Challenges**
We are thankful for the emergency legislation that Congress has passed to date, but we know that California and our nation won’t fully recover without additional investments to our states, as well as in research, health care and education.

- In June, we shared a letter with your office from UC President Emeritus Janet Napolitano and the 10 University chancellors outlining UC’s requests as related to the fourth COVID-19 emergency legislation that Congress is working on. Specifically, the letter outlines the priorities as related to education, research, and tax and financing issues, including the need for additional support for states and territories.
- Also in June, we shared a letter with your office from Executive Vice President of UC Health Carrie Byington highlighting several health care financing, higher education and workforce priorities that are critical to academic health centers like UC Health for inclusion in the next COVID-19 emergency legislation.

**Preparedness and Response**
Critical operations continue at all UC campus and system locations, and our health centers continue to provide vital services to their communities.

- UC Irvine researchers launched a public COVID-19 statistics portal that provides up-to-date statistics on infections in Orange County and compares it to other California counties.
- UC Santa Barbara professor Deborah Williams created a portal of public land destinations for Santa Barbara residents who are rediscovering public outdoor spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Through its unique infrastructure and capabilities, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is leveraging specialized resources to support the fight against COVID-19.

**Student and Campus Life**
UC is committed to ensuring continuity and providing resources for its campus and lab communities.

- In a recent op-ed penned by UC Merced Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz and Merced College President Chris Vitelli, they announced the launch of the Do Your Part campaign, a joint effort between the two institutions to help inform their communities about safe and healthy practices.
- In September, UC Riverside is expected to open a COVID-19 diagnostic lab that will expand rapid testing of the campus community.
- This fall, UC Davis is planning a unique, multidisciplinary approach to screening its on-campus population for COVID-19. In order to screen individuals faster, the campus will use an open-source method that may avoid some of the bottlenecks of other approaches.
Research
UC researchers continue to advance understanding and develop new tools to address and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are highlights of some of the efforts taking place:

- A team of UCSF scientists have devised a novel approach to halting the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease, via 'AeroNabs,' an aerosol formulation of molecules that can be self-administered with a nasal spray or inhaler.
- A recent study out of UCLA found that single-use N95 respirators can be effectively decontaminated and used up to three times.
- UC San Diego infectious disease researchers are striving to understand the complexities of living with HIV and acquiring COVID-19.
- UC Santa Cruz economist Robert Fairlie developed a report on the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic on minority owned businesses – his research found that the number of active African-American-owned businesses dropped 41 percent in April, while Latinx business owners fell by 32 percent and Asian business owners dropped by 26 percent – which was cited in the Minority Business Resiliency Act.
- In estimating the magnitude of the pandemic, UC Berkeley demographers found that COVID-19 is likely to shorten the average U.S. lifespan in 2020 by about one year.
- In a series of videos, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory scientists discuss five of the latest research projects, now under way at Berkeley Lab, which aim to help address some of the many scientific challenges posed by the pandemic.
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- Los Alamos National Lab researchers have found that a specific change in the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus virus genome, previously associated with increased viral transmission and the spread of COVID-19, is more infectious in cell culture. The variant in question makes a small but effective change in the virus’s ‘Spike’ protein, which the virus uses to enter human cells.

Learn More About UC’s Coronavirus Response Efforts
If you have any questions about this update or other issues, please contact Chris Harrington with UC’s Office of Federal Governmental Relations.