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.

**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.

- **To help avoid the spread of COVID-19 in nursing home facilities**, Dr. Susan Huang and her UCI Health colleagues have been funded to be the Orange County Nursing Home Infection Prevention Team. In this role, they have created a nursing home toolkit dedicated to coronavirus prevention and provide webinars, training and monitoring to keep staff and residents safe.
- Researchers at the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) and the Banatao Institute at UC have launched a new public-private pilot initiative to bring telehealth services to underserved rural residents in Merced County. UC Merced’s Health Science Research Center will also be actively engaged, contributing to the partnership through translational research, public outreach and engagement, education and project evaluation.
- **UC Riverside has a new diagnostic lab operating on campus** that will rapidly process samples from students and employees as part of an ongoing coronavirus testing program.
- In an effort to help small businesses in Berkeley, four UC Berkeley business students founded Outhrive, an organization that offers free marketing and consulting services to small businesses impacted by the pandemic.
- New this year – and supported by Los Alamos National Laboratory – is the **New Mexico STEAM Hub**: An online, one-stop shop for child care resources, parent guides for online learning and STEAM activities to do at home.

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

- **According to a UC/YouGov poll**, More than 80 percent of California youth are adhering to social distancing guidelines and nearly as many are reported to “always” wearing a mask.
- UCLA is making sure students will have chances to connect as they start the new year: The True Bruin Welcome program will introduce students to the countless ways to get involved at UCLA and provide them with opportunities to virtually connect with students and resources to support personal growth and academic success, whether studying from home or on campus.
- Co-edited by UC Santa Cruz history professor Eric Porter, with Daniel Fischlin, “Playing for Keeps: Improvisation in the Aftermath,” examines musical improvisation as a response to crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
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.

- UC Davis researchers recently compared N95, surgical and fabric masks and discovered a difference in how well each cut down the amount of particles emitted.
- Analyzing anonymized patient medical records, UC San Diego researchers discovered that cholesterol-lowering statins reduced the risk of severe COVID-19 infection, while lab experiments uncovered a cellular mechanism that helps explain why.
- A study led by UCSF researchers suggests that babies born to mothers infected with COVID-19 generally do well six to eight weeks after birth; however, there was a higher rate of neonatal intensive care unit admissions reported if the mothers had COVID-19 up to two weeks prior to delivery.
- UC Santa Barbara researchers unveiled early results of a study about an existing tuberculosis vaccine that has been hypothesized to help against the coronavirus.

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.

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.