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

This Wednesday, April 29 at 2:30 PM ET, UC will host its second virtual briefing in a series aimed at providing policy staff and federal stakeholders with COVID-19-related information from UC experts. This week’s briefing, “UC COVID-19 Briefing Series: UC Research,” will focus on the COVID-19 response from UC’s research enterprise. Please RSVP by COB Tuesday, April 28.

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.

- The move to online instruction caught many California teachers and schools off guard. But for UC Scout, which offers free online college prep courses to California public school students and teachers, delivering state-of-the-art remote instruction is just business as usual – and now it has become a valuable resource for students and schools transitioning quickly to remote instruction. >> Read More
- UCLA, in partnership with Beyoncé’s BeyGOOD initiative, has created an online COVID-19 Care Package to help people struggling with stress and anxiety brought on or worsened by the novel coronavirus pandemic. >> Read More
- A UC Riverside freshman is helping to ensure the COVID-19 pandemic won’t hinder academic success in his community by building computers for high school students in need. >> Learn More
- To provide helpful advice and informative stories about life during the COVID-19 pandemic, UC Irvine launched a comprehensive news site – oc-covid19.org – to serve Orange County and regional communities. >> Learn More
- The global pandemic has caused record unemployment in the United States and the future of the economy and the American workforce is unclear. UC Merced Economics Professor Greg Wright weighs in on the impact COVID-19 is having on the nation’s economy and what we can expect moving forward. >> Learn More

Student and Campus Life
While there is no doubt that the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year will be different, UC is committed to ensuring continuity and providing resources for its students.

- Experts across the UC system are sharing their knowledge with their communities via online seminar and webinar series. Some of these include:
  - UC Santa Barbara professors launched the weekly seminar series “Issues, Approaches, and Consequences of the COVID-19 Crisis,” which emphasizes an interdisciplinary understanding of the pandemic. >> Read More
o UCLA experts on viral detection, therapies, epidemiology and immunology are among the speakers participating in a webinar series dedicated to the latest research on the coronavirus pandemic. >> Learn More

o UC Berkeley launched an online video series, “Berkeley Conversations: COVID-19,” to connect leading experts with the public they serve, and each other. >> Read More

o At a recent UC Irvine forum, “Where Are We & What to Expect Next” – with more events forthcoming – campus experts discussed the current state of health, the continued threat that the pandemic poses to individuals and the community and navigating the new realities in health care. >> Learn More

o At a recent UCSF Medical Grand Rounds presentation, experts provided an update on the epidemiology, virology and diagnostic testing for COVID-19 while UCSF Health leaders discussed the economic implications of COVID-19 and the challenges going forward. >> Learn More

- UC Santa Cruz’s Institute of the Arts and Sciences offers shelter-in-place relief with a new, virtual museum called Art Without Distance, featuring sights, sounds, words, curricula and even a quirky campus tour. >> Learn More
- UC San Diego recreation classes have gone virtual through “The Playground,” which welcomes all campus community members to dance, meditate, compete in esports, learn to draw and more through free virtual classes. >> Learn More

Research
UC researchers are advancing scientific understanding and developing new tools, while sharing their knowledge of COVID-19 with researchers around the world. Below are highlights of some of the efforts taking place across the system.

- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is part of a multi-laboratory working group that recently received Department of Energy, Office of Science funding under the CARES Act to conduct research and development to help improve the nation’s COVID-19 testing capabilities. >> Read More
- Nanoengineers at UC San Diego are working on a COVID-19 vaccine using an unconventional candidate: a plant virus. The project received a Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant from the National Science Foundation. >> Read More
- Even as scientists at UCSF and across the world rush to develop and validate antibody tests for the novel coronavirus, they are cautious about how the tests should be used. >> Read More
- A recent UC Davis study estimates that there has been $1 billion saved in avoided car crashes due to the stay at home order. >> Read More
- Correction: The COVID-19 High Performance Computing Consortium includes all three UC-affiliated national labs: Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Lawrence Livermore National Lab and Los Alamos National Lab. Last week we unintentionally stated that it only includes two. >> Read More

Ongoing Challenges
Even with Congress’ vital support, many of our students and their families continue to suffer. We’re thankful for the emergency legislation that has been signed into law, but know that our community won’t fully recover without additional investments. Continued prioritization in research, health care and education are necessary as these three pillars are essential for our collective recovery.
Details about UC’s specific priorities and ongoing challenges are detailed in an April 10 letter from UC President Janet Napolitano that was shared with your office. >> Read More

If you have any questions about this week’s update or other issues, please contact Chris Harrington with UC’s Office of Federal Governmental Relations.