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.

Throughout the week, UC Health publishes dashboards via its Twitter handle – @UofCAHealth – sharing COVID-19 updates from the five academic medical centers, such as the number of positive patients that have needed admission and the number of patients tested, among other information.

Follow @UofCAHealth for COVID-19 Updates

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.

- UCLA and UCSF have established PRIORITY, a joint initiative to collect data on pregnant and recently pregnant women under investigation for or recently diagnosed with COVID-19. >> Read More
- A team of UC Berkeley engineers have created respiratory devices from sleep apnea machines, developing an affordable solution for COVID-19 patients around the world who need help breathing, but aren't in the hospital intensive care unit requiring high-grade ventilators. >> Read More
- UC Santa Barbara’s Graduate Division has established the Multidisciplinary Research on COVID-19 and its Impacts Program to support students' summer research and projects on the pandemic. >> Read More
- The Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) and the Banatao Institute at UC Santa Cruz are providing seed funding for three innovative projects to address the challenges caused by the current COVID-19 pandemic, ranging from educational technology for remote learning to robotic testing platforms and a senior-friendly online telepresence system. >> Read More
- New analysis from the UC Riverside School of Business Center for Economic Forecasting and Development concludes that jobs, income, public revenue and other economic indicators are likely to recover more slowly than previously expected due to the resurgence of the virus in locations across the U.S., including Southern California and the Inland Empire. >> Read More

Student and Campus Life
UC is committed to ensuring continuity and providing resources for its campus and lab communities.
Despite challenges from the pandemic, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and UC Merced were still able to host the Data Science Challenge, a two-week event involving 21 UC Merced students who worked through video conferencing and chat programs to develop machine learning models capable of differentiating potentially explosive materials from other types of molecules. >> Read More

During a recent UC Davis LIVE: COVID-19, a twice monthly video series that connects viewers with researchers from across the campus, two UC Davis Health experts discussed new research on face coverings that found that the risk of infection to the wearer is decreased by 65 percent. >> Read More

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 Health has developed a unified, secure data set for use in COVID-19 research. >> Read More
- Engineers from UC Irvine recently received a rapid funding award from the NSF to explore the deployment of the university’s wireless network as part of a COVID-19 contact tracing application. >> Read More
- UC San Diego Health has launched a clinical trial to assess the safety and efficacy of convalescent plasma to prevent COVID-19 after a known exposure to the virus. >> Read More
- UCSF, in collaboration with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, has identified key chemical building blocks for a possible antiviral drug against the virus that causes COVID-19. >> Read More
- Researchers in the UC San Diego Wireless Communications Sensing and Networking Laboratory are developing BluBLE, a new app for contact tracing during the COVID-19 pandemic. >> Read More
- Biologists at Los Alamos National Laboratory are tracking D614G, a newer variant of COVID-19, that is more infectious in cell culture but may not make patients sicker. >> Read More

Ongoing Challenges
We are thankful for the emergency legislation that has been signed into law, but know that our community won’t fully recover without additional investments in research, health care and education.

- On June 22, we shared a letter with your office from UC President 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. >> Read More
- On June 23, 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. >> 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.