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.

We invite you to join us today (June 24) at 3:00 PM ET for the latest in the UC COVID-19 briefing series: Impacts of NSF RAPID Grants. The event, which will feature researchers from four UC campuses, will highlight the wide variety of research being conducted as a result of funding opportunities through the NSF’s Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant mechanism.

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

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.

- As part of the Smooth Sailing program, UC Riverside researchers created a new resource guide for teachers looking to strengthen their relationships with students in the early elementary-school grades, even during remote instruction. >> Read More
- Adapting to the new environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, UC Davis Health has modified its telehealth operations and now averages nearly 1,100 telehealth visits a day. >> Read More
- UC Merced researcher Matthew Zawadzki has developed a guide to coping with stress during the COVID-19 pandemic. >> Read More
- Lawrence Livermore is partnering with BioMedInnovations to mass-produce a simple mechanical ventilator developed for COVID-19 patients, which has been authorized for emergency use by the FDA. >> Read More
Student and Campus Life
UC is committed to ensuring continuity and providing resources for its campus and lab communities.

- UC campuses have started to release reopening plans, below are the latest announcements for each campus:
  - UC Berkeley
  - UC Davis
  - UC Irvine
  - UCLA
  - UC Merced
  - UC Riverside
  - UC San Diego
  - UC San Francisco
  - UC Santa Barbara
  - UC Santa Cruz

- UCLA faculty are getting creative when it comes to teaching perspectives on the pandemic – the campus has offered 25 Fiat Lux seminars spanning history to health to art. >> Read More
- UC Irvine’s Career Pathways, which helps students navigate the job market, adjusted to the COVID-19 world by restructuring its programs and services for students as internships got canceled and apprehensions about finding future employment increased. >> 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:

- With a grant from the NSF, UC Santa Barbara, in collaboration with UC Berkeley and Columbia University, is revamping epidemiological models to better detect the spread of COVID-19. >> Read More
- Researchers from UC San Diego discovered that nanoparticles cloaked in human lung cell membranes and human immune cell membranes can attract and neutralize the SARS-CoV-2 virus, effectively preventing its spread. >> Read More
- The UC Santa Cruz Genomics Institute’s Genome Browser Team has received seed funding from the UC Office of the President for its work on the UCSC Genome Browser for SARS-CoV-2, which supports biomedical research aimed at developing therapeutics and a vaccine for COVID-19. >> Read More
- A new study by researchers at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital identified what they believe to be a key reason behind patients’ treatment-resistance in the rare inflammatory disorder HLH. The finding could offer additional insights into other immune conditions, including the severe inflammation response in some children with COVID-19. >> Read More
- Can computed tomography (CT) scans be used to quickly and accurately diagnose COVID-19? Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory researchers are working to improve the accuracy of CT scan diagnosis. >> Read More
- New research by a team from the Global Policy Lab at UC Berkeley found that emergency health measures implemented in six major countries prevented more than 500 million COVID-19 infections. >> Read More
• Los Alamos National Laboratory has years of experience developing tools that can now be applied to the battle against COVID-19, including RETRO Rx, designed for disease forecasting and response. >> Watch a Video

Learn More About UC’s Coronavirus Response Efforts

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.