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.

UC Volunteers Give Back
Students, staff and faculty from across the system are giving back during the COVID-19 pandemic, from producing hand sanitizer to providing urgent care at New York hospitals to delivering food to vulnerable populations. These members of the UC community embody UC’s mission of public service, which has been critical in helping combat COVID-19.

- Volunteers from UC Davis are helping a local food bank by delivering food to individuals too vulnerable to leave home. >> Read More
- UC Irvine campus labs produced sample-preserving fluid for COVID-19 test kits when their health center faced a potential shortage. >> Read More
- Law students at UCLA are volunteering to help hospitality and restaurant workers in California secure unemployment benefits. >> Read More
- UC Merced volunteers, including the interim chancellor, donated blood at a local blood drive in Merced. >> Read More
- A team of UCSF physicians and nurses have volunteered to provide urgently needed health care for patients in hard-hit New York. >> Read More
- A student on the men’s rowing team at UC San Diego delivered donated face masks to senior homes when volunteer visits were suspended. >> Learn More
- The HEAL Initiative at UCSF organized a team of UCSF volunteers to help at Navajo Nation hospitals. >> 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.

- In response to the limited availability of testing, a team of researchers at UC Santa Cruz has established a diagnostic testing lab on campus. >> Read More
- A team of researchers at UC Santa Barbara has developed a CRISPR-based test that promises to be just as sensitive as conventional tests, but also faster and deployable in the field. >> Read More
- To address the shortage of N95 and surgical masks, UC Riverside engineers are developing low-temperature plasma technology to sterilize masks. >> Read More
- A team at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has prototyped a simple ventilator design – dubbed the “Novel Emergency Response Ventilator” (NERVe) – for quick and easy assembly from available parts. >> Read More
- “Berkeley Conversations: COVID-19,” a series of live, online events featuring faculty experts from across the UC Berkeley campus who are sharing what they know, and what they are learning about the pandemic continues with new events added regularly. >> Read 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.

- It was recently announced that a COVID-19 vaccine with patch delivery technology would soon enter preclinical testing at UC Davis. >>> Read More
- UC San Diego Health has launched a Phase III clinical trial, part of a global effort, to assess whether a medication used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory disorders might also have therapeutic value for COVID-19 patients who have developed or are at high risk of developing serious lung damage from SARS-CoV-2 infections. >>> Read More
- A UC Berkeley and UCSF project to evaluate some of the more than 120 available antibody test kits should provide the test performance data doctors and public health officials need to decide which tests to employ and to understand how reliable the results are. >>> Read More
- Scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have built a text-mining tool – live at covid scholar.org – to help the global scientific community synthesize the mountain of scientific literature on COVID-19 being generated every day. >>> Read More
- Los Alamos National Laboratory Bioscience Division recently launched the COVID-19 Genome Analytics, a new website to facilitate analysis and interpretation of SARS-CoV-2 genomic data. >>> 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.

- UC developed – and recently shared with your office – a document highlighting the tax and financing mechanisms the University would like to see addressed as Congress considers additional COVID-19-related legislation. >>> Read More
- UC applauds Reps. Doris Matsui and Alan Lowenthal and the other members of the California congressional delegation who signed a letter to the House leadership in support of an additional investment of $47 billion in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. >>> Read More
- 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

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.