



UC Health  
1111 Broadway, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94607  
Phone: (510) 987-0147  
<http://www.ucop.edu>

March 9, 2020

Dear Chancellors:

Today, Drs. Cathryn Nation, Vice President, UC Health, John Mazziotta, Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences, and Talmadge King, Dean & Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs convened a group of infectious disease and public health experts from across UC Health to provide me with recommendations regarding UC Health's response to COVID-19.

This UC Health Public Health Advisory Group so far includes the following members identified and recommended by UC Health leaders:

Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, PhD, MD, MAS, Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, UCSF

Nancy Binkin, MD, MPH, Adjunct Professor, Family Medicine and Public Health, UCSD

Bernadette Boden-Albala, Director and Founding Dean, Program in Public Health, UCI  
Eric Goosby, MD, Professor of Medicine, UCSF

Robert A. Gunn, MD, MPH, Adjunct Professor Emeritus, Family Medicine & Public Health, UCSD

Robert J. Kim-Farley, Professor-In-Residence, Epidemiology & Community Health Sciences, UCLA

Margot Kushel, MD, Professor of Medicine, UCSF

Brad Pollock, PhD, MPH, Associate Dean & Chair, Public Health Sciences, UC Davis

Arthur Reingold, MD, Professor of Epidemiology, UC Berkeley

George Rutherford, III, MD, Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, UCSF

Dorothy Wiley, MSN, RN, MPH, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, UCLA

I am writing to share with you my recommendations for UC Health based on the advice I received today from members of the group. Members of the group emphasized, and I agree, that decisive action now will be critical in bending the epidemic curve, preserving health system capacity, and more broadly enhancing UC Health's resilience in the face of this public health emergency.

1. *Travel.* Implement the travel restrictions recommended by: (i) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; (ii) the California Department of Public Health; and (iii) UCSF (see <https://www.ucsf.edu/coronavirus#policies>). The UCSF travel guidance has been endorsed by the Vice Chancellors of Health and I recommend that they be implemented across UC Health.

Specifically, the group recommends that all non-essential air travel (international and domestic) be curtailed and that wherever possible, other forms of communication (e.g., video or telephonic conferencing) be employed. The University's definition of "essential travel" is posted online on the UCNNet website:

[https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/coronavirus/uc-covid-19-guidance-revisions.html#1\\_2](https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/coronavirus/uc-covid-19-guidance-revisions.html#1_2).

2. *Social Distancing*. Explore and adopt additional measures to facilitate and increase social distancing. While we all recognize the significant impact and implications of social distancing in the workplace and academia, members of the advisory group have noted that such measures were found to be effective in terms of reduced infections and deaths averted in China (Wu and McGoogan, *JAMA*, Feb. 24, 2020).

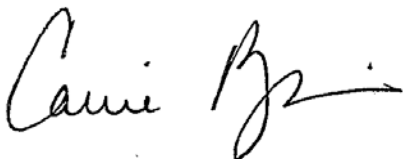
Examples of social distancing precautions include reducing participation in in-person meetings (both external and internal), making available online options in lieu of in-person meetings wherever feasible. Please see Box 1 from the attached article by Dalton et al. ([https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3549276](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3549276)) for additional guidance to consider for the workplace.

In those cases where in-person attendance is deemed critical, account for recommendations for physical distancing such as involving a smaller number of individuals and increasing space in order to minimize physical contact. Similarly, avoid in-person instruction wherever possible. (I know that such measures have been adopted or are under consideration at multiple campuses.)

3. *Other Measures*. Provide increased capacity for other preventive measures such as available handwashing resources, ready access to hand sanitizer, and other hygiene measures.
4. *Preparedness*. I plan to continue working with the Advisory Group and collaborating to develop additional recommendations for UC Health regarding preparedness and response. We will of course share these recommendations with you as our work progresses.

I look forward to continuing our discussions and working together to address the threat of COVID-19 to our communities.

Sincerely,



Carrie L. Byington, MD  
Executive Vice President  
UC Health