

FEBRUARY 28, 2020  
COVID-19 AND 'CORONAVIRUS' UPDATES

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As you are aware, the world is facing the threat of an emerging coronavirus, SARS CoV2, which is responsible for COVID-19 disease.

As the new leader of UC Health, I have been working with our health centers, campuses, students, faculty, and staff to address COVID-19 risks. This communication will be distributed two times a week to convey important information and activities related to our efforts. Because I may be new to some of you, I want to share aspects of my background directly relevant to the COVID-19 threat in this first update.

I am an academic physician-scientist board certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases. I developed diagnostic technology used world-wide for the detection of common infections and the recognition of emerging pathogens of pandemic potential. I've led efforts to protect children and pregnant women and to ensure daily hospital operations during infectious disease pandemics and outbreaks, including H1N1 influenza, Ebola, and Zika viruses.

I chaired the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Infectious Diseases and have authored more than 70 national policy statements on the care of infants and children with infectious diseases including the AAP's 'Red Book,' considered to be the preeminent resource on pediatric infectious disease. Additionally, I was the lead physician for the US Olympic Committee's Zika prevention efforts for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brazil.

All of this is to say that I am well-prepared to address the urgent issues we face and have been participating in regular Management Response Team (MRT) meetings since early January. The most recent Situation Status Report, produced twice weekly following MRT meetings is also attached to this email.

### **THE IMPACT ON OUR HEALTH SYSTEM AND A CHANGE IN CDC POLICY**

The University of California (UC) Health System is on the front lines of providing health care services to patients in California and the United States who may be symptomatic or asymptomatic of COVID-19. To date, UC medical facilities are treating or have treated six patients diagnosed with COVID-19 and evaluated 21 people considered 'Persons Under Investigation' (PUIs) for potential infection (See Table 1). We know that these patients represent the beginning of our efforts. All UC medical centers are well-versed in caring for patients with complex illnesses, including those with infectious diseases.

Table 1: Number of Persons under Investigation (**PUI**) and Patients with Confirmed COVID-19 cared for across the UC Health System by Location

MEDICAL CENTER	PUIs TO DATE	CONFIRMED TO DATE
UC Davis Health	3	1
UCSF Health	4	3
UCI Health	1	0
UCLA Health	4	0
UC San Diego Health	9	2
UC Campuses	10	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6</b>

I am so proud of our clinicians and staff in rising to the challenge of caring for patients and protecting public health during this challenging time.

Because of astute clinicians at UC Davis, we reached a new milestone this week. They recognized a patient transferred from another facility may have actually had COVID-19 despite having no history of travel to affected areas. Their insistence on testing - despite the patient not meeting CDC criteria - resulted in identifying the first known case of COVID-19 in the US due to community transmission.

This discovery led the CDC yesterday to change its national definition of a PUI and a much-needed revision of the CDC's guidance for testing. See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

Time is precious in these situations. As a result of the testing delay, more than 100 health care workers and a dozen students and trainees from campuses may have been exposed to the virus. These colleagues are self-monitoring at home for 14 days, the maximum amount of incubation time for the virus.

I visited UC Davis Medical Center yesterday, where I witnessed an extraordinary team of professionals taking care of our latest COVID-19 patient, as well as each other. The way they have rallied and the professionalism of their incident command center makes the entire UC system proud. My thoughts now are with our patients and with our colleagues, students, and trainees who are self-monitoring at home.

### **KEEPING PEOPLE INFORMED THROUGH PUBLISHED MATERIALS**

The situation is changing rapidly. UC campuses have been publishing extensive educational materials for the public, our students and staff. UCOP is distributing guidance to facilitate smooth operations. Examples include:

- [Guidance for UC Locations](#)
- [President's Directive on Travel to China](#)
- [President's Directive on Travel to Korea and other Warning - Level 3 Countries](#)

- [Information for Parents and Students](#)
- [A Summary of UC's System Involvement in COVID-19 Patient Care and Research](#)

You can also find the latest travel information on the CDC website - [Information for Travel](#).

### MEETING WITH KEY LEADERS

We are engaging with key external stakeholders to exchange information including:

- Meetings with the director of the California Department of Health and the Secretary of California Health and Human Services
- Meetings with President Napolitano and our federal legislators including Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- Meetings with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Meetings with the California Association of Nurses

### REQUEST FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT

To date, UC Health has spent approximately \$30 million in preparing for the care of our first patients and persons under investigation. As the situation progresses, we expect further disruption of our usual hospital operations. Today, we have asked for federal support of \$500 million to support our ongoing efforts to address COVID-19. See the attached **PDF**.

I recognize that the situation is dynamic. I am initiating this email update today and anticipate providing you with ongoing updates weekly. Please follow me on Twitter [@carrie\\_byington](#), where I provide links to important information in real time. Together we can protect the health of our students, employees, and all Californians.

Sincerely,