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COVID-19 AND 'CORONAVIRUS' UPDATES

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THE IMPACT ON OUR HEALTH SYSTEM

This is the second update for Regents regarding the SARS-CoV-2 virus (novel coronavirus), the COVID-19 illness it creates and the impact on the University's health and academic enterprise.

Over the weekend, I had meetings with the California Hospital Association and the California Department of Health, and on Monday I spoke with the California Medical Association and Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis who expressed appreciation for all of UC's work on this public health emergency. All of us are trying to coordinate our efforts to best serve the state and our individual stakeholders. A number of important developments have occurred over the past few days:

- A COVID-19 patient remains at UC Davis Medical Center. The patient was transferred from VacaValley Hospital on February 19th and initially was not tested for the virus because the patient's history did not meet CDC criteria for testing. Although infectious disease precautions were taken, 83 UC Davis Health staff and 7 physicians are in self-isolation and/or monitoring for possible exposure. Testing of these employees is ongoing and none have tested positive thus far, though three health care workers from VacaValley who had earlier contact with the same patient have tested positive. We are working to support all those involved by providing paid leave, medical supplies, and other resources to ease the burdens associated with quarantine.
- A UC Davis student who had been a 'person under investigation' (PUI) because of exposure to a known COVID-19 patient tested negative for the virus over the weekend. The student, and two roommates, had been self-quarantined since early last week. The quarantine has been lifted for the roommates though the PUI will remain in isolation for a total of 14 days.
- At least 100 people in 15 states have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Six people in Washington State have died from COVID-19 since Friday, most associated with a nursing home in Kings County. The CDC has issued updated guidelines for long-term care facilities.
- Also in Washington State, 48 elementary, middle and high schools closed for additional cleaning in an effort to mitigate the spread of the virus.
- The availability of testing should improve over the coming weeks. The CDC sent new kits last week to public health departments, in quantities that allow for 1,200 tests in California, according to the California Department of Public Health. Ten California public health labs have already received CDC test kits and have begun testing. These labs include CDPH's Laboratory in Richmond, Alameda, Contra Costa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Tulare,

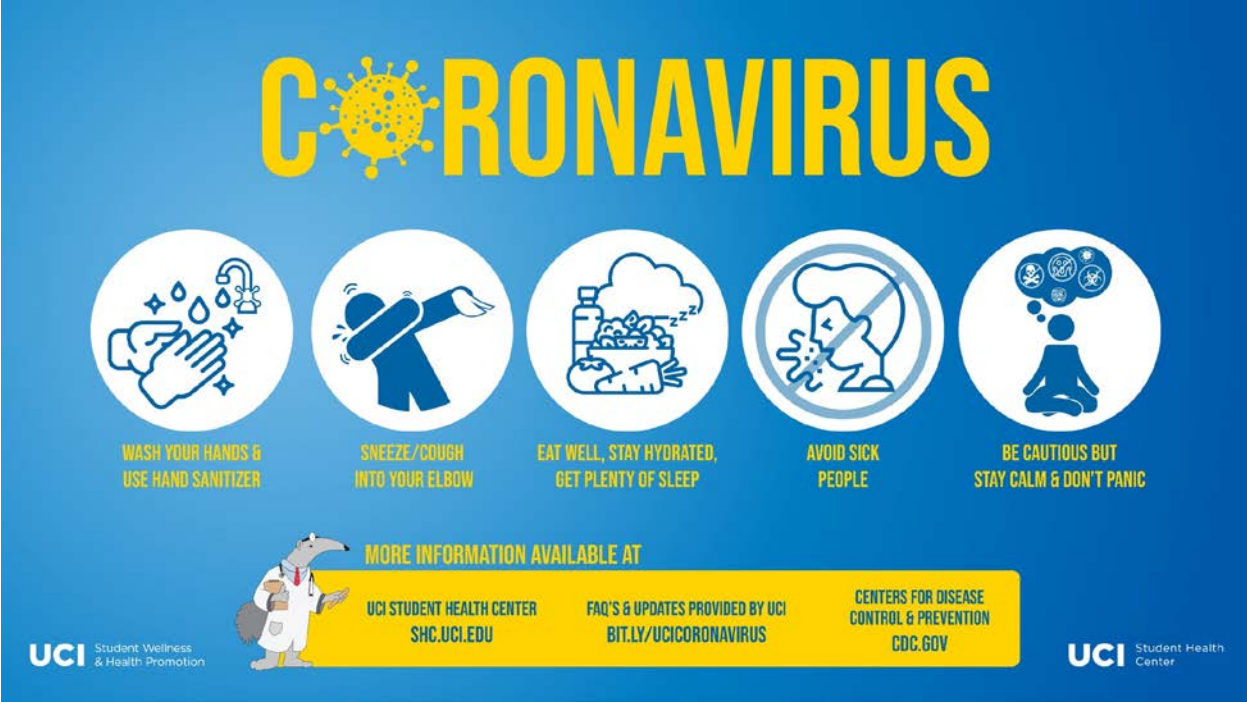
National CDC Statistics as of March 2	
States reporting cases	14
Total cases	100
Total hospitalized:	17
Total deaths	6*
Excludes overseas returnees	
*Includes recent Washington cases	

Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego County labs. The CDPH Laboratory will provide diagnostic testing within a 48-hour turnaround time.

- To further expand testing capabilities, the FDA is enabling qualified labs to perform testing under Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) prior to issuance of emergency use authorizations (EUA) for such tests. This allows new diagnostics technologies, in addition to the CDC's test, to be used to test for the virus. All UC medical centers are CLIA certified. We have a working group led by Dr. Steve Gonias, Chair of Pathology at UCSD. This group is working on developing lab testing at each of our 5 medical centers that can be used across the system. Our goal is to have UC testing available by the week of March 16 following validation requirements.
- Additional travel restrictions have been implemented by the State Department and CDC. In addition to mainland China and South Korea, Italy and Iran are now designated a Level 3 countries indicating sustained widespread transmission and guidance to defer all non-essential travel. Additionally, the U.S. government is suspending entry of foreign nationals who have been in Iran within the past 14 days. Japan has been designated level 2, with guidance for seniors and those with underlying health problems to postpone travel. Schools in Japan are closed until early April in an effort to slow the virus' spread.

When the State Departments issues a level 3 travel warning, such as now the case in South Korea and Italy, the UC Education Abroad Program (EAP) suspends activities in those countries. See more under 'Impact on our Educational Programs.'

- The [CDC is recommending that higher education institutions consider postponing or canceling upcoming student foreign exchange programs](#), and asking current program participants to return to their home country. UC has program-level activities in Italy, and in South Korea. UC students in Italy and South Korea are being asked to return home. EAP has been coordinating benefits with our travel insurance carrier to assist students that want to return. Those who elect to remain will be required to sign a waiver that acknowledges their decision.
- Although the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the US remains relatively small, the geographic dispersion of the confirmed cases in the US [and genomic testing of the virus that was conducted in Washington](#) suggests the virus has been present for weeks and some level of community based transmission is occurring. Although the World Health Organization (WHO) has not been officially declared a 'pandemic,' many clinical and public health experts, including the California Medical Association, are recommending including mitigation practices to slow the spread of viruses in the community. The [CDC has information on using Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions \(NPI\)](#) at home, school, work, and at public gatherings. NPI include personal actions such as staying home when sick, proper cough hygiene and washing hands, community actions include social distancing, which may include temporary closures and cancellation of mass gatherings, and environmental actions include adoption of cleaning protocols. [Please see the CDC's recently issued guidance on holding events](#). I recommend that all of our campuses began to socialize NPIs as part of empowering students and employees to protect their health. The UCI campus has already begun through their "Spread the Word not a Virus" campaign on Facebook and Twitter.



UC MEDICAL CENTERS PREPARED

As one of the state’s primary health care providers, UC Health’s five academic medical centers have a proven track record of protecting and safely caring for patients with infectious diseases and severe illnesses.

These facilities have protocols in place that allow UC Health to safely care for patients, while protecting the health of our community and the public at large.

UC medical centers have a total of 269 negative pressure isolation rooms in adult and pediatric facilities, as well as additional rooms that can be converted for use plus negative pressure tents that can be deployed in surge situations.

NUMBER OF PUIs AND CONFIRMED CASES AT UC FACILITIES

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	7	3
UCI Health	1	0
UCLA Health	4	0
UC San Diego Health	9	2
UC Campuses	10	0
TOTAL	34	6

SUPPLY CHAIN INFORMATION

All UC medical centers and student health centers have varying numbers of N95 masks available. These filtering masks, along with other personal protective equipment (**PPE**), are required for interaction with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. Some manufacturers of this equipment are located in China, resulting in slower than usual reorder fulfillment.

It is important to note that N95 masks and other PPE items are reserved for health care workers interacting with suspected cases. General surgical masks, such as you see in the public, may be worn by individuals who have some type of respiratory infection to reduce the likelihood of coughs and sneezes producing droplets that result in surface contamination. However, these masks are not effective in filtering out airborne transmission.

Although widespread shortages are not anticipated, UC submitted a letter to the California Congressional Delegation reminding members that the Defense Production Act provides the Administration with broad authority to ensure the timely availability of essential domestic industrial resources and proposing that an emergency supplemental request should include language that provides the Administration with the specific ability to utilize Defense Production Act authorities to fight this public health emergency.

THE IMPACT ON OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- In anticipation of possible disruptions to in-person classes, a number of UC campuses have begun converting educational material to remotely accessible and on-line formats. See attached memorandum distributed at UC San Diego.
- UC Education Abroad Programs (UCEAP) in Italy have been suspended and students advised to return. All students should receive partial academic credit for work completed to date; UCEAP has a protocol for remote completion of coursework in certain circumstances and is exploring those options for students across the four programs in Italy.
- UCEAP's suspension of its program in South Korea was initiated prior to the program start date. Students already in-country have been advised to return, but some students may decide to remain in country against advice and enroll directly with the partner institution. UCEAP's approved waivers of liability will be issued for any student making this independent decision.
- Students attempting to return from UCEAP programs to quarter campuses may face housing and course enrollment challenges for spring quarter. Students on semester campuses are unable to return to campus mid-term and may face delays in progress to degree. UCOP is working with campuses to help mitigate these negative impacts on students where possible.

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:

- [How UC is Responding to the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) - **NEW**
- [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:

- Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
- California Hospital Association
- California Department of Public Health
- California Medical Association
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Institutes of Health
- Gilead Pharmaceuticals

I will be providing ongoing updates twice weekly as warranted. 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,

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