Dear Colleagues,

We are writing with an update on the UC Davis COVID-19 Vaccine Program, with more information about our distribution plans now that our Davis campus vaccine clinic has opened.

**Supporting a vaccinated community, any way we can:** We are committed to helping our community become fully vaccinated and providing vaccination opportunities to all employees and students as soon as possible—hopefully by the summer. But with limited access to vaccine doses, you may also receive opportunities from county sites, your healthcare provider or other sources such as local stores. Please do not hesitate to take advantage of those opportunities to receive a vaccination should one become available to you sooner.

**Phase 1A and 65+ now:** With the opening of our clinic on the Davis campus, we are currently vaccinating UC Davis employees who are categorized as Phase 1A and have not yet completed their immunizations, including those who work directly with infected people, first responders, healthcare and veterinary medicine workers, COVID-19 researchers, and staff who support quarantine and isolation housing.

Per Yolo County public health guidance, the Davis campus clinic has also opened appointments to our employees and students who are 65 years or older, as part of the initial tier of Phase 1B.

**Phase 1B, Tier 1 occupational risk categories next:** Beginning Feb. 10, we will open appointments to other UC Davis employees who are categorized as Phase 1B, Tier 1, based on their occupational risk of exposure. On the Davis campus, this includes:

- In-person instructors, including faculty, TAs and post-docs currently participating in in-person instruction for winter quarter (spring quarter in-person instructors will be vaccinated in a later phase prior to the start of spring quarter)
- Campus childcare and child development workers
- Police and Fire personnel not previously vaccinated
- Dining employees, including Custodial and Facilities staff who service Dining facilities
- Agricultural researchers and specialists currently working in the field or directly with ag workers

**Fluid situation, check webpage as details change:** Additional details about who is included in each tier—including plans for future phases—are available on our [COVID-19 Vaccine Program webpage](https://www.ucdavis.edu/campusready/vaccine/). This is a dynamic situation, and we are responding quickly to changes in state and county priorities, so please continue to check that webpage for updates as tier details may change and more appointments will become available.

Even with this uncertainty, UC Davis vaccination efforts are in good hands. UC Davis Health [celebrated its 26,000th person vaccinated](https://www.ucdavis.edu/campusready/vaccine/) against COVID-19 on Feb. 1, between its employees, community healthcare workers, and the initial phase of UC Davis Health patients. When the Davis campus clinic opened this week, UC Davis Fire personnel and EMT students were among the first to administer
vaccine doses—after having already supported Yolo County vaccine efforts for other first responders. We are seeking ways to more broadly support vaccination efforts in our community, so please stay tuned for more updates.

**When it’s your turn:** Continue to check the [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#) webpage for updates, as we receive more doses and eligibility expands to include more groups. Once you are eligible, you will be able to make an appointment through our [Health-e-Messaging portal](#) (where you also make appointments for our asymptomatic COVID-19 testing program). Please note that you will need to provide a photo ID and proof of your age/eligibility at your appointment.

Thank you in advance for your patience and partnership as we work together to fully vaccinate our community on both the Davis and Sacramento campuses. Every vaccination reduces the risk of transmission and mutations of the virus, and we are thankful to be able to offer this additional resource to our employees and students.

It is important that we all continue to follow public health guidelines—including asymptomatic testing, physical distancing, wearing face coverings, and washing hands—even if you have been vaccinated. We will only be able to put this pandemic behind us if we all do our part to keep ourselves and others in our homes and community healthy.

Sincerely,

Mary Croughan  
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Kelly Ratliff  
Vice Chancellor  
Finance, Operations and Administration
Checking In With Chancellor May:
‘It’s Working’

To the UC Davis Community:

We keep hearing about “herd immunity,” and I am happy to share today that we’ve achieved it within the UC Davis Health community, thanks to the fact that more than 90 percent of all employees have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

CBS News’ David Begnaud returned to the medical center for a [live segment yesterday morning](#), after having first reported from the hospital when it administered its first vaccinations. “When we were here in December they had 210 employees out sick due to COVID,” he said. “You know how many they had as of yesterday? Only 10. More than 93 percent of the employees here at UC Davis Health all stepped up and said, ‘We will be vaccinated.’”
Among them: Chasity Whitmer, a labor and delivery nurse, who was initially hesitant to get the vaccine. She changed her mind, though, and is thankful she did — because, a few days after receiving her second dose, her husband, mother and grandmother all tested positive for COVID-19. Chasity and her grandfather, who unlike their other family members had been vaccinated, did not. Thankfully, the other family members recovered.

Anne Tompkins, interim director of employee health services, tells Begnaud: “It’s working. The numbers are a testament, people’s stories are a testament, that the vaccine is truly working. And we’re going to be OK.”

Indeed, we are going to be OK. How proud we are of Chasity and all of our nurses and physicians and other health system personnel for achieving herd immunity and providing such a good example for the nation and world — and hope for us all.

**Davis campus vaccine clinic**

Of course, we want herd immunity on the Davis campus, too, but it is going to take some time, because we have been receiving only 500 to 600 doses per week. Given the severely limited supply, we are focusing on all groups previously approved and will now include employees who because of their assignments are required to be on-campus.

As we have said all along: Please get your vaccine wherever you can, say, from your health provider or a pharmacy or a community clinic. And please be patient. It will happen. Refer to the Campus Ready COVID-19 Vaccine Program webpage for further information.

Meanwhile, Healthy Davis Together — our partnership with the city — continues to draw national attention, this time from Univision. One of its news crews spent yesterday morning in Davis, speaking with a UC Davis expert, an Aggie Public Health Ambassador, a testing site leader, private citizens and Mayor Gloria Partida, all in Spanish. The story will air soon, possibly at 6:30 tonight.

**Spring, fall and study abroad**

- **Spring instruction** — Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Croughan has given approval for around 80 courses to be held fully or partially in person, provided the county where the course is to be given (Yolo County, in most cases) has achieved at least red-tier status in the state’s reopening system. “I am optimistic that Yolo County will achieve red-tier status next week, so my hope is that we can maintain that status (or better) for the start of spring quarter instruction on March 29,” she said. Yolo County is in the purple tier as of today, signifying “widespread” transmission of COVID-19. Moving to the red tier requires an improvement to “substantial” transmission.

- **Summer abroad** — We are sorry to announce UC Davis has suspended study and intern abroad programs through summer 2021 due to the knowns and unknowns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific details and resources have been sent to students who had expressed interest in summer abroad programs, so that these students can plan for other opportunities. The Global Learning Hub within Global Affairs is committed to supporting students in participating in other global programs, such as new UC Davis Virtual Summer Internships and a variety of other virtual opportunities. Students with questions are encouraged to reach out to Global Learning Hub advisors.

- **Fall Planning Work Group** — Established this week by Provost Croughan, this group comprising representatives from several areas of campus leadership will address issues relating to the
resumption of in-person instruction, research and on-campus activities in the fall. This small group has been assembled to bring critical issues forward so they can be addressed in a coordinated fashion, with subcommittees doing more extensive work. Provost Croughan noted that the Resumption of In-Person Instruction Committee will retain its role reviewing proposals for in-person summer instruction, and the Research Ramp-Up Committee will retain its role in determining the details for research activities in Davis, Sacramento and elsewhere.

Checking in elsewhere

• **Principles of Community Week** — The opening ceremony is set for 11:30 a.m. Monday (February 22); [register here for the livestream](#). Other events are scheduled all week; [see the full schedule here](#). We hold this celebration annually to rededicate ourselves to the principles by which we strive to maintain a climate of equity and justice demonstrated by respect for one another, and to confront and reject all manifestations of discrimination. [Read the Principles of Community](#).

• **Enhancing Student Wellness Community of Practice** — This campus work group has been hard at work for more than year analyzing student-support services, to determine and prioritize strategic investments aimed at improving student outcomes and eliminating gaps in four-year graduation rates. I am eager to hear the group’s findings and recommendations during a program from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday (February 22). All are welcome to attend. [Register here](#).

• **Campus safety** — Our Task Force on Next Generation Reforms to Advance Campus Safety is gathering input in a series of town halls, seven of which will be held over the next two weeks. I encourage you to attend. The first forum next week, 5 p.m. Monday (February 22), will be a general session, open to all. [Read about the task force and its recommendations](#), and see the complete schedule of town halls with times and registration links.

• **Aggie athletics** — As announced yesterday, [our football team’s delayed season has been delayed again](#), by one week, to a March 6 opening game at Idaho. The Aggies had expected to begin play Feb. 27 against Cal Poly at UC Davis Health Stadium (with no fans allowed in). That game has been postponed to March 20. Regrettably, some of our other teams canceled their seasons, but I am happy to report the following teams are either back in action or soon will be: basketball, tennis, golf, baseball, softball, equestrian, track and field, women’s water polo, beach volleyball and women’s lacrosse. Go Ags!

Finally, next week I will deliver my annual State of the Campus address to the Academic Senate, during a meeting of the Representative Assembly, Thursday, February 25. The meeting starts at 2:10 p.m., and my address is near the top of the agenda. Anyone can attend; [look for the Zoom link here](#). In this year of unprecedented challenges, I have much to share about all that we have accomplished, not the least of which is our response to the pandemic.
Sincerely,

Gary S. May  
Chancellor
Checking In With Chancellor May:  
‘It’s Working’

To the UC Davis Community:

Yesterday I gave my fourth annual State of the Campus address to the Academic Senate, my partner in our system of shared governance. Some of my remarks spoke specifically to faculty, but there were also messages for our university as a whole, like when I said, “Together, we aren’t just surviving. We are thriving.”

It was a reference, of course, to the unprecedented challenges of the last year, and how we have managed to keep going as a university due to everyone’s hard work, flexibility and resilience. This is not to say our faculty, staff and students have not struggled; our collective efforts may be heroic, but we are only human at the end of the day. It is why we remind everyone again of the resources we have available, through the Academic and Staff Assistance Program and Counseling Services for
A year ago today, UC Davis Health reported the first community-acquired case of COVID-19 in the country. Since then, our faculty, staff and students have been involved in solutions to every aspect of this pandemic. You have pulled together as a community, and I am proud of what everyone has done. See UC Davis Health’s COVID-19 timeline, reflecting on how the crisis began and how far we’ve come.

I commended our faculty in particular for their guidance and collaboration not only on matters pertaining to the pandemic, but hazardous wildfire smoke, too. Through everything, we kept teaching, our students kept progressing toward their degrees and graduating, and we continued making an impact with our research, despite limitations necessitated by the pandemic.

We had invaluable staff support all along the way, in everything we did. As I said in my speech: In times of great challenges, it’s clear that UC Davis never fails to show its strength.

Read my speech in its entirety and see the PowerPoint slides here.

Yolo in the red tier
Our leadership and expertise have shone especially bright in our response to COVID-19, with our health and safety protocols, our nationally recognized asymptomatic testing program and our Healthy Davis Together partnership with the city.

With COVID-19 statistics improving, Yolo County moved out of the purple and back into the red tier of the state’s reopening guidelines this week — good news, indeed, but certainly no reason to let up in our public health practices on face coverings, physical distancing and gatherings. Also, keep up with your regular asymptomatic testing and get vaccinated when you can.

The shift in tiers will not significantly change Davis campus operations over the next few weeks. We are being cautious because we do not want to start reopening, only to have to shut down again.

Therefore, the Activities and Recreation Center will remain closed and Dining Services is not yet allowing indoor seating. We are monitoring the situation, and state and county guidelines as they evolve, so that when we do decide to open the ARC and dining facilities — even with limited capacities — we are confident we can stay open and gradually increase operations.

Until then, you can access a variety of virtual or outdoor classes and activities currently offered by Campus Recreation. And, of course, we have dining commons and other eateries that are serving takeout meals and beverages. As always, we will communicate any updates as they become available.

As for gatherings, our UC Davis rule still stands: No events or gatherings on our campuses or in our facilities, with the exception of events/gatherings that comply with related industry guidance aligned to our mission or that are in support of public health.

Off campus, in the red tier, Yolo County strongly discourages indoor gatherings. Still, state guidelines allow gatherings indoors and outdoors with no more than three households — and the county caps attendance at 16. See the Campus Status and Operations page for more information.
Wide access to testing
Regardless of whether you have been vaccinated, we urge everyone to keep up with regular asymptomatic testing (at least weekly). There is still so much we don’t know about the coronavirus and its variants, and vaccinated people may still be able to transmit the virus to unvaccinated people. So, while we are confident in the safety and efficacy of the vaccines, we all must stay the course in our public health practices.

Our asymptomatic testing program is readily available, free of charge, for employees and their families, students and the community, as follows:

- **Option 1 for employees and students** — Get tested at the Activities and Recreation Center. Appointments are required and can be arranged through the Health e-Messaging portal. Please take note that as of Monday (March 1), you must present a **photo ID** to go along with your Daily Symptom Survey approval email and appointment QR code. Your ID can be your UC Davis ID, driver’s license or other issued photo ID.

- **Option 2 for employees and students** — You may visit UC Davis Health’s employee and student testing sites in Sacramento, Roseville, Elk Grove and Folsom, which may be more convenient for you. Appointments are required and can be arranged through the Health e-Messaging portal.

- **Healthy Davis Together** — The city-campus partnership offers testing for people who live in Davis or others who work in Davis (and their family members). Healthy Davis Together has testing sites at the Davis Senior Center, Veterans Memorial Center and the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts. **Register for testing here** (use “davis” for agency code), or **sign in** if you are already registered.

- **Members of UC Davis employees’ households** — Household members are eligible to be tested at any of the Healthy Davis Together sites (listed above), even if you do not live or work in Davis. Register for testing here (use “davis” for agency code), or sign in if you are already registered.

By the way, our COVID-19 response continues to generate national publicity, the latest being a segment by Univision Wednesday night.

Vaccine supply
As we **reported earlier this week**, UC Davis Health and the Davis campus vaccine clinic stand ready to administer more than 5,000 vaccinations per day — but are doing far less because of limited and unpredictable vaccine supply.

So, we are doing our best to prioritize appointments in adherence with government-specified phases and tiers, and eager to do more for our patients and the campus community, and for the wider community where equity in vaccine distribution is a major concern.

UC Davis Health alone has the capacity to administer as many as 5,000 COVID-19 shots per day, and hold many more clinics for underserved populations, if there were sufficient vaccine supply.

The Davis campus vaccine clinic has the capacity to administer 1,200 shots per week when doses are available, and could boost capacity by expanding hours and days of operation. (I’d like to give a shout-out here to our student EMTs and student firefighters, and other Fire Department personnel, who are giving the bulk of the shots at the clinic.)

Strength, talent, creativity
I hope you will take time to read my [State of the Campus address](#), where I talk about our top rank-
ings, faculty honors, research highlights, recruitments for new deans and athletics director, philanthropy, construction, Aggie Square, our fall reopening and our budget situation

I concluded by stating that I am looking forward to this year and all that we will accomplish. Of course, we will face challenges and many unknowns. But I know this more than ever: UC Davis might be challenged time and again, but no matter what, we will continue to rise through the strength, talent and creativity in our university community.

Sincerely, 

Gary S. May
Chancellor