

UC SANTA BARBARA

Office of the Chancellor

February 3, 2021

Dear Members of Our Campus Community:

I am writing to provide our UC Santa Barbara community with an update on our campus's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Earlier communications on vaccine administration were sent to our community on January 7 and January 15. Given the importance and ever-evolving nature of this issue, we plan to communicate with you over the coming weeks with further developments in our vaccine program. We have also added a vaccine information page to our campus COVID-19 information website, at <https://www.ucsb.edu/COVID-19-information/vaccine>.

Vaccines Administered To Date

Our campus medical experts, Student Health Services, and vaccination team, working closely with and under the strict guidance of the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (SBCPHD), have been fortunate to be able to offer vaccines to our healthcare workers and staff, including those who are involved in COVID-19 testing and assisting with our vaccination efforts; our custodial teams in Student Health and in quarantine/isolation housing; individuals in our testing laboratory who are working directly with test samples; and those who are supporting our students in the isolation/quarantine facilities that our University is providing at no cost to our students, whether they live on or off campus. With authorization from the County Public Health Department, we also have administered the first dose of the Moderna vaccine to a significant percentage of our active staff and faculty who are over the age of 75, with remaining doses allowed for those over the age of 65.

We have administered our vaccines with the approval of the SBCPHD, and with strict adherence to all protocols and guidelines. Additionally, each has been meticulously entered into the State's vaccine database.

Because of the expertise of our medical team and faculty researchers, a dedicated community of staff, students and volunteers, and the specialized facilities on our campus, UC Santa Barbara is well-positioned to support the SBCPHD vaccination efforts. We are deeply grateful to everyone on our campus and at the SBCPHD who has contributed to these efforts to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within our campus community and the greater Santa Barbara area. Every campus community member we are able to vaccinate increases the protection of the greater Santa Barbara community, and reduces the burden on our health care partners in Santa Barbara County.

Limited Vaccine Supply

Vaccine supplies in the County and the State remain extremely limited at this time. The University is working with the SBCPHD to acquire and administer as many vaccines as quickly, efficiently, and equitably as possible.

This week, we received second doses of the Moderna vaccine. Our vaccination team will directly contact those campus community members who have already received their first dose in order to schedule appointments for the second dose. If our campus receives additional vaccines, we will be

allowed to offer them only to active staff and faculty members over the age of 75, as required by the SBCPHD. We regret that at this time we are unable to vaccinate our emeriti faculty and retired staff colleagues, and we encourage them to seek vaccination from their community healthcare providers if possible. If you have questions regarding campus COVID-19 vaccines, please visit <https://www.ucsb.edu/COVID-19-information/vaccine> or email covid19-vaccine@ucsb.edu. I would also be glad to hear from you directly with your thoughts and concerns at henry.yang@ucsb.edu.

We all care about the health and safety of every campus community member, and we regret that the vaccine supply and guidelines limit our ability to provide vaccinations more broadly. However, our campus is prepared to administer vaccines to much larger segments of our campus population if more vaccines are made available and we are authorized to do so. In the meantime, we continue to offer COVID-19 testing at no charge to all of our students living on campus and in the community, including Isla Vista, and to eligible staff and faculty colleagues who are coming to campus.

Vaccine Guidelines

Currently, each UC campus's vaccination program is subject to guidelines and protocols determined by their local counties, the California Department of Public Health, and UC systemwide policies. Campus approaches throughout the UC system will differ based on local public health guidelines, in our case those set by the SBCPHD.

We expect the vaccine guidelines to continue to evolve in the coming days and weeks. The recent announcement that a third-party provider, Blue Shield of California, will oversee distribution of the vaccine may significantly impact the current guidelines. If changes in the national manufacture and distribution of vaccines increases vaccine availability, we are ready to serve our campus and community. We are meeting throughout the week with the SBCPHD and with our colleagues in the medical centers and at UCOP to advocate for our community and to receive the latest updates on vaccine developments.

Our medical experts, vaccine team, and I are committed to keeping our community informed and up to date on our campus progress, and on any developments related to the availability of vaccines for our campus community.

Again, we so appreciate all those who are working so hard to provide testing and vaccination services to our community. We have been fortunate to be able to provide critical services that help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. I will continue to keep our campus community informed as our vaccination efforts progress. And while we await greater access to vaccines, please stay healthy and safe by wearing your mask, physically distancing from others, and following all public health guidelines. Take good care of yourselves and each other!

Sincerely,

Henry T. Yang
Chancellor

UC SANTA BARBARA

Office of the Chancellor

February 22, 2021

Dear Members of Our Campus Community,

We are writing to provide our campus community with updates on our campus's planning efforts and actions regarding:

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Spring Quarter

Staff Guidance for Remote Work

Enhanced Summer Quarter

Commencement

Fall Quarter

But first and foremost, we want to take a moment to thank our entire University community for your unflinching dedication during this challenging time. We are deeply grateful for the countless hours our faculty and staff have spent working to provide world-class teaching and learning experiences for our students, and to support the ground-breaking research and scholarship that are hallmarks of our campus. And we appreciate and acknowledge the hard work and resilience of our students and families throughout the past year.

We also want to express our enormous appreciation for the work of our campus medical experts, health professionals, and staff and student support teams who manage our testing and vaccination programs, the COVID-19 Response Working Group, and all those across campus who are working around the clock and through every weekend and holiday to help us continue to meet the complex challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your expertise and your unwavering commitment to our University are critical beyond measure.

Beyond the public health aspect, one of the many challenges we have faced is the profound budget impacts of the pandemic. Last year, the State reduced its support for the University of California by 10 percent (\$300.8-million) per year. The Chancellor's Coordinating Committee on Budget Strategy has been working throughout the year to address this significant loss to our campus budget, without reducing our workforce. Last Wednesday, Governor Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders announced an economic relief agreement that adds 10 percent back to next year's (2021-2022) allocation to UC, essentially returning state support to the levels prior to last year's reduction. We expect more details to emerge in the coming week, and while this is good news for our campus and the UC system, the state Legislature will not vote on the final budget until June, and we still must address the 10 percent reduction to our current fiscal year (2020-2021), which has not been restored. Our campus will continue to review our budget strategy, and will keep you updated with the latest information as we know more.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Our campus has been fortunate to be able to support the efforts of the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (SBCPHD) by administering vaccines to individuals in our community who are

involved in campus frontline health care and COVID-19 testing efforts and to those 75 years and older. We were permitted to offer the remaining vaccines from our initial delivery to some active staff and faculty members age 65 and older. We expect that all second doses will be administered by the end of February to all those who received their initial vaccines. We would like to thank SBCPHD and UC Office of the President for their efforts in distributing vaccines to our campus so we can help our community as part of this important collaborative effort.

The SBCPHD recently announced that vaccine eligibility in the County has expanded to include individuals age 65 and older, and that UC Santa Barbara is eligible to participate in an SBCPHD-approved pilot program using the current distribution guidelines set by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the University of California for Phase 1B (see below). Our Student Health Services has already begun reaching out directly via email to those active staff and faculty who are now eligible to schedule a vaccination appointment under the current guidelines. We will continue to post updates on our Vaccine webpage at <https://www.ucsb.edu/COVID-19-information/vaccine>, and questions regarding our program can be directed to covid19-vaccine@ucsb.edu. We will also hold a panel discussion this Thursday, February 25, with our campus medical and microbiology experts to explore “The Science Behind COVID-19 Vaccines and Other Interventions.” Click here to register.

STATE PHASE 1B includes the UC Groups below:

UC Group #1: Employees age 65+

UC Group #2: Employees working on-site in: Child care, Emergency services, Food service, Agriculture

UC Group #3: Other employees (offered by age, starting with those who are 64 years old)

These distribution guidelines are subject to change, and may be affected by the State’s decision to appoint California Blue Shield as the sole vaccine distribution entity.

Because the number of doses we receive may not be enough for all eligible individuals, we strongly encourage everyone to consult their primary care providers about getting a vaccine. Depending on their vaccine supplies, they may be able to administer vaccinations more promptly than our University can. Please accept the first available opportunity for a vaccine, wherever it may be.

Spring Quarter

Remote Instruction

While we had hoped to offer more in-person courses in the spring, given the prevalence of COVID-19 in the Santa Barbara community and the predictions of a potential new surge in the coming months, we expect our spring quarter to be similar to our current winter quarter. The majority of our courses will be offered remotely, and we will continue to offer selected laboratory, performance, and field experience courses in a face-to-face format. We encourage students who have questions about specific courses to check with their instructors.

Library and Recreation Center

We are continuing to follow all local and state public health guidelines as well as UC policies regarding access to campus facilities. Our campus medical experts and COVID-19 Response Working Group meet daily to review County data and health guidelines. We have developed extensive COVID-19 mitigation plans that will allow us to implement limited, reduced-occupancy openings of our UC Santa Barbara Library and RecGen when the number of cases in Santa Barbara County decreases, consistent with public health guidance. We are hopeful we will be able to open these facilities to accommodate some student usage during the spring quarter.

Campus Housing

We have been able to accommodate all students with special circumstances since the beginning of the academic year, and starting this winter quarter, all those who had previously expressed interest in campus housing; thus campus housing in spring quarter will continue the same as winter quarter. Our graduate and family student housing will also remain unchanged since the beginning of the academic year. Our mitigation efforts and weekly testing requirement for students in campus housing have helped to reduce the spread of COVID-19 on campus, and to date have resulted in very few cases among our students living in campus housing. However, the prevalence of COVID-19 in Santa Barbara County, and in Isla Vista specifically, remains quite high.

We commend our on-campus students for their conscientious adherence to public health protocols, wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing, and avoiding groups. Our success in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 will help us to resume more campus activities in the months ahead.

Staff Guidance for Remote Work

In light of the current COVID-19 numbers and our plans for spring quarter instruction, we are asking those members in our campus community who have been working remotely to plan to continue doing so through June 30, 2021. However, since we are hoping to provide expanded access to some of our campus facilities, we are asking members of our dedicated staff, such as those who work in the Library and RecGen, to continue to stay in close touch with their supervisors.

Enhanced Summer Quarter

Our campus is working on plans to offer an enhanced summer quarter for our students, with both remote and residential opportunities, including the possibility for some students to live in campus housing. Student surveys indicate that many want to be on campus, even if they are reluctant to return to the classroom.

We have been developing a program specifically targeted for our second-year students, many of whom will be coming to campus for the first time. Although most courses will remain remote throughout the summer, there may be opportunities to teach some small seminars outdoors. We are also planning a significant expansion of mentoring and retention programs that make use of summer to support students who have been impacted academically by remote instruction. The program will also focus on building campus community and encouraging as much informal interaction as possible between faculty and students. More details will be available later this spring through the Summer Sessions website.

Commencement

It is typically about this time of year that we announce dates and information regarding our Commencement ceremonies, one of our most proud and joyous traditions. While we are planning to have a virtual celebration to recognize the achievements of our graduating seniors in June 2021, we are delaying our decision with the hope that the current situation in Santa Barbara improves enough to allow us to host some kind of hybrid ceremony for those graduating students who will be in the area.

It is likely that any in-person event will be limited to the graduating students only, given the expected public health guidelines. We are consulting with our Deans, faculty, students, event management team, and planning staff, and we will continue to keep our graduating students and their families updated as the situation develops.

We are also keeping in mind our extraordinary graduates from 2020, and we are still planning to invite them back to campus for an in-person recognition ceremony in the future when the situation permits.

Fall Quarter

We want to assure our community that everything we are doing now through the summer is working toward the goal of resuming primarily in-person instruction for Fall 2021, as University of California President Michael Drake announced in January. How we proceed will continue to depend on public health guidelines, but we are hopeful that through widespread availability of vaccines, our robust testing program, our mitigation plans, and continued use of face coverings and physical distancing, we will be able to offer a more normal on-campus experience for our students in the fall.

We look forward with great optimism and anticipation to the time when we can be together again in person. I am grateful for the dedicated and collaborative efforts of every member of our academic community as we plan and work together toward that goal, while remaining unflagging in our commitment to take care of each other and our community.

Sincerely,

Henry T. Yang
Chancellor