

Office of the President

TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS:

ACTION ITEM

For the Meeting of May 20, 2020

PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE OPERATION OF UNIVERSITY LOCATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE SARS-COV-2 PANDEMIC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of California is working across the enterprise to promote transparency and the safety of faculty, staff, and students during the SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic. Like many organizations large and small throughout the State of California, the University has dramatically transformed its on-site operations consistent with the statewide “Stay at Home” order issued March 19, 2020 by the Governor and other local public health orders.

On any given day prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a holistic view of UC’s operations would show great complexity across its mission, programs, and the faculty, researchers, clinicians, staff, and volunteers who carry out the University’s mission. Despite this complexity, the University moved very quickly in March to modify the way it operates in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. UC is committed to ensuring that academic disruptions related to COVID-19 do not threaten any student’s ability to strive for and attain a UC education.

Following public health guidance and best practices in operational continuity, ramp-up of normal on-site operations will be phased. This item proposes the adoption of principles for responsible operation to guide campus scenario planning as on-site operations increase and in the event they need to be scaled back to respond to a future pandemic surge.

RECOMMENDATION

The President of the University recommends that the Regents adopt the following:

Principles for Responsible Operation of University Locations in Light of the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic

The University of California remains fully committed to promoting the safety, health and well-being of students, faculty, and staff as we pursue the tripartite mission of teaching, research and public service. The following principles will guide our actions, as a system and at each location:

1. The University is committed to providing on-site activities that enable faculty, students and staff to advance UC's mission, further their educational and professional goals and pursue personal achievements; the way we do this must be consistent with applicable State and Local Public Health Department orders and directives and the advice of experts, and will consider the impact on equity, diversity and inclusion.
2. While the elimination of risk is not possible, the University will implement scientifically appropriate COVID-19 practices including, to the extent appropriate, screening, testing, contact tracing and utilize other public health data to inform decisions and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
3. The University will adopt rules, policies or practices to promote physical distancing, universal face covering and other mitigation measures to the extent necessary and appropriate based on scientific and public health data.
4. The University may utilize risk-based restrictions on visitors to campus as determined necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
5. The University will ensure the provision of facilities, equipment, supplies, and staff are sufficient to develop, implement, and sustain the above COVID-19 principles.
6. University locations will maintain flexibility in all of their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be ready to adjust rapidly to changes in public health conditions.

BACKGROUND

University officials across the system are undertaking extensive scenario planning to prepare for increased on-site operations as federal, State, and local public health orders allow. The Office of the President has provided campuses with a scenario toolkit that can be adapted to assist with local planning efforts (Attachment 1). This document will continue to be updated as additional federal, State, and local guidance is made available and is designed to allow for optimal campus flexibility to address local public health requirements and specific campus needs.

Attachment 1: Application of California's Pandemic Roadmap to UC (Version date 5/7/2020)