March 5, 2020

CHANCELLORS
DIRECTOR—LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY
VICE PRESIDENT-AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Subject: Updated directive on non-essential travel restrictions to CDC Level 2 and Level 3 Travel Health Notice countries and granting of emergency powers to the Management Response Team

UC campuses, health centers, and laboratories continue to work around the clock to combat the global outbreak of novel coronavirus, including within the United States. From the earliest days of the outbreak, the University of California has been on the front lines of response efforts to COVID-19, leveraging the power of UC research to inform and guide our actions and providing care for affected patients in our top-ranked hospitals. To date, three of our UC medical centers have treated six confirmed cases of COVID-19. All five of our medical centers have monitored at least 34 people under investigation (PUI). Each health center has comprehensive protocols and significant experience dealing with infectious diseases. Even as we care for patients, we are acutely mindful of our responsibilities to our employee communities, other patients, and the public at large.

We must take this threat seriously, and we are. Combatting this virus and effectively caring for all patients requires skillful planning and nimbly responding to quickly-evolving circumstances. These changes may impact daily operations and the lives of faculty, staff, students, and communities across California. In the past few days alone, the number of countries and regions experiencing widespread community transmission has dramatically increased, thereby increasing the risk of travel to these locations.

Given the rapidly changing conditions, and out of an abundance of caution, I am expanding my Feb. 26 directive to avoid all non-essential, University-related travel to CDC Level 2 (sustained community transmission) Travel Health Notice countries, in addition to Level 3 (widespread sustained transmission) –Travel Health Notice countries. Further, individuals on our campuses with a recent travel history from a CDC Level 3 country must self-isolate for 14 days from the time they left the Level 3 country and practice social distancing. CDC travel guidance for Level 3 countries applies to all travelers returning from a Level 3 country for any purpose, including personal travel. All those traveling...
abroad for University-related purposes must register their international travel with the UC International Travel Registry.

In addition, to ensure the University can rapidly respond to ongoing developments and continually updated guidance from the CDC and local, state, and federal public health authorities, I am formally tasking UC’s systemwide Emergency Operations Management Response Team (MRT) with the authority and responsibility to address crisis management policy decision-making and provide critical oversight focused on keeping our campuses and communities safe. As such, effective immediately, all decision-making authority on actions related to limiting the impacts of COVID-19 is, hereby, delegated to Rachael Nava, Chief Operating Officer for the UC Office of the President. COO Nava leads the MRT, which has been activated to implement our Management Response Plan to manage this evolving public health emergency. As President of the University of California, I will continue to closely monitor the situation and receive regular reports from COO Nava.

We will continue to take as many precautions as necessary in order to protect the UC community while remaining calm, vigilant, and responsive. The Office of the President will continue to provide guidance as warranted. I appreciate your immediate attention and cooperation to implement this directive.

You can find ongoing and updated information on UC’s response to coronavirus here: ucal.us/coronavirus.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
President

cc: Provosts and Executive Vice Chancellors
Vice Chancellors for Administration
Medical Center Chief Executive Officers
Division Leaders
Associate Vice President and Chief Risk Officer Lloyd
Academic Senate Chair Bhavnani