

COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Planning at UCSF

From VC-SAA@ucsf.edu

To: All UCSF Students

Sent April 24, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Dear Students,

I hope you are all doing well, taking care to balance your personal needs and your work as we continue to shelter in place.

Across the state—and particularly in the Bay Area—our communities have done a great job of observing physical distancing guidelines and sheltering in place. As a result, we have seen slowing in the spread of the infection (“flattening the curve”). While this is a positive sign, we should remember that the COVID-19 crisis continues to create losses and hardships for many families and individuals. Managing the pandemic will be an ongoing challenge across many fronts.

Last week, [Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled criteria](#) that he will use to determine if, and when, the state’s stay-at-home order will be modified. The Governor did not, however, provide a timetable, emphasizing instead the need to monitor the state’s progress closely in order to guide any changes.

As part of our own ongoing assessment of the public health challenge, Chancellor Hawgood has charged a team to develop guidelines for a phased-in return to onsite work. These guidelines will be designed to help ensure the safety of our community and those we serve. You will receive additional information as details of the plan are finalized.

It’s important to note that a timeline for any potential phase-in return to work at UCSF has not yet been determined. We should expect to continue working under our current policies and expectations regardless of whether the Bay Area’s shelter-in-place orders expire on May 3. (As a reminder, the state’s current [stay-at-home order](#) has no set expiration date.)

My expectations are that anyone who can work remotely will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. This will enable physical distancing for our colleagues who are currently working onsite as well as those who may need to return.

I recognize that for some of you, working from home presents challenges. The education deans and directors of the degree programs are working together to determine when and how students might return to campus, and you will hear from your respective program in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please make use of UCSF’s resources to help support your emotional [health and well-being](#).

These plans remain a work in progress. To learn more, I encourage you to attend the [virtual town hall](#) on Friday, May 1 at 4 p.m.

Until then, thank you for your ongoing contributions. Let’s continue to draw strength from one another and direct our support to our exceptional frontline teams, both clinical and non-clinical, whose leadership and courage are guiding us through this public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Watkins

Elizabeth Watkins, PhD

Dean, Graduate Division

Vice Chancellor, Student Academic Affairs

Professor, History of Health Sciences