March 3, 2020

Dear UCSB Students,

We understand that you might be concerned about the news of the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and we are writing to provide additional information about UC Santa Barbara’s ongoing monitoring and preparations to address the spread of the virus. As of today’s date, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on campus or anywhere in Santa Barbara County.

Please rest assured that your health and safety is our top priority, and that the University of California and UC Santa Barbara are working closely with local, state, and national health organizations to monitor the situation closely. Together, we are working proactively to reduce the likelihood of transmission in our community and preparing to address any cases that should arise.

The most up-to-date information is available online at:
- UC Santa Barbara Student Health
- University of California Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Our protocols are consistent with CDPH and CDC recommendations: screening, isolating, and testing individuals who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection. By following statewide and national protocols, we are ensuring that we enact scientifically proven methods of responding in the most effective manner. Implementing more stringent measures would create confusion among community members, stress medical facilities and supplies, and – most importantly – not improve the health and safety of our community members.

The most important individual actions that all members of any community can take to limit the of the COVID-19 and many other illnesses:
1. Wash your hands with soap and water regularly (or use hand sanitizer when a sink is not accessible).
2. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, and encourage others to do the same.
3. Avoid touching your face.

There is significant misinformation circulating online, which is why we recommend referring directly to the credible information sources linked above. Currently, use of masks by the general population is not recommended in the Santa Barbara area.

Every student, staff, faculty, and community member plays a critical role in maintaining the wellbeing of our community. You are a valued and important partner in keeping our community safe and healthy. Please stay informed through the sites above and continue to follow the important individual actions described above.

Thank you for your cooperation and continuing to foster an atmosphere of inclusion and kindness on our campus.