

UCLA Health has the largest geographic footprint for hospitals and clinics across the UC health systems, with four hospitals and more than 180 clinics across Southern California.

UCLA Health also has the largest work force of the six UC Health campuses. As would be expected, our health system has the highest number of COVID-19 patients in terms of daily census and aggregate numbers. This is also consistent with the disproportionate share of cases diagnosed in Los Angeles County relative to the rest of California. We report our numbers daily in an internal message to all UCLA Health employees and to LACPHD.

Distributed to UCLA Health Staff on April 17, 2020

Subject: COVID-positive health care workers



Dear Colleagues,

Today's Los Angeles Times included an article regarding California hospital workers testing positive for COVID-19. The article contained partial and limited information about UCLA Health. We wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with important context and our data.

Since we began testing health care workers for COVID-19, we have been reporting our numbers to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, in accordance with public health guidelines. For each positive test we have followed CDC guidelines for quarantining and return-to-work practices.

At UCLA Health, 9,596 health care workers are enrolled for symptom screening and 190 have tested positive for Covid-19.

- Of those positive, approximately 54% believe they may have been exposed at work either by other co-workers or patients.
- Work-related exposure accounts for approximately 2% of UCLA Health staff enrolled for symptom screening.
- UCLA Health has no known cases of health care workers contracting the coronavirus while appropriately utilizing PPE, and we have no known PPE failures during this pandemic.
- To date, the hospitalization rate for our COVID-19 positive health care workers is less than 2%, which is far less than the 26% hospitalization rate for the general population, as reported by Los Angeles County.

There are several contributing factors to UCLA Health's positive numbers. UCLA Health was the first in LA County – the state's most populous – and among the first in the state and nation to begin in-house testing

on March 10, and we ramped up quickly. Availability of testing inevitably means more positive cases, as we've seen around the world.

We've taken many precautions from the early phase of the pandemic to the present day that reflect our commitment to the safety of our health care workers:

- Low threshold for testing of health care workers
- Dedicated test site for health care workers
- Included residents/faculty and other affiliate sites
- All health care workers identified as symptomatic were removed from the setting as soon as known.
- Implemented additional temperature and symptom screening at all entrances
- Daily online symptom tracking for all employees
- Robust team of infection prevention and occupational health professionals dedicated to employee exposure concerns
- Adjusted workplace and work routines to maximize social distancing (cafeteria, break rooms, front/back desks, etc.)

This phased-in approach of effective tactics also includes: implementing stringent visitor restrictions; encouraging telehealth visits; utilizing virtual Zoom technology; significantly reducing inpatient admissions and outpatient visits; engaging in physical distancing (when possible), and ensuring availability of personal protective equipment by our supply chain.

Sincerely,

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