

Your Philanthropy in Action: COVID-19 Response

Expanding UCSF's Impact in Our Community
and Around the World

UCSF is deeply grateful for your timely and generous support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your philanthropy empowers the university to pursue groundbreaking research, increases access to quality care for disadvantaged patients with COVID-19, and keeps our staff members healthy and safe.

Fast-Tracking Crucial Research

Thanks to you, our researchers are tackling a variety of challenging questions related to the COVID-19 crisis. Their work pursues several important goals: stopping the spread of the virus, helping patients and communities through this crisis, and finding an effective cure and a vaccine.

Using Antibodies to Help Sick Patients

With your support, UCSF scientists are testing whether antibodies from people who have recovered from COVID-19 can help hospitalized patients fight off active infections. This promising approach – known as convalescent plasma treatment – remains unproven. But researchers running the clinical trial hope that the antibodies can prevent COVID-19 patients who are already having trouble breathing from getting worse – which can lead to intubation, a difficult and sometimes dangerous procedure to increase oxygen in the patient's lungs.

If the treatment works, the study should also help researchers understand exactly how much COVID-19 antibody is needed to effectively treat sick patients. Convalescent plasma treatment is typically safe and well-tolerated, and patients in the study will still be able to receive other available treatments, such as antiviral or antiinflammatory drugs. Luckily, convalescent plasma is readily available in the Bay Area; UCSF has been connecting recovered COVID-19 patients with opportunities to donate their plasma for many weeks.



Leading a National Effort to Study the Risks of COVID-19 During Pregnancy

Unfortunately, little information exists about how COVID-19 affects pregnant women or newborns. Because all women experience changes to their immune systems during pregnancy, they might face an increased risk of complications. A new, nationwide study at UCSF called PRIORITY – short for Pregnancy CoRonavirus Outcomes RegIsTrY – aims to answer urgent questions that will likely shape health care for pregnant women and newborns affected by COVID-19.

The study launched in late March with more than 75 sites across the country and has enrolled about 800 participants so far. About 200 have now given birth, making PRIORITY the largest study of babies born to women with COVID-19.

The researchers have also added a Reproductive Health Equity and Birth Justice Core to study. On average, black women in the US die during pregnancy or childbirth at three to four times the rate of white women. The Core team aims to recruit more women of color into PRIORITY and is working closely with community groups that will help organize opportunities for participants to shape the study, weighing in on the research questions that are most important to them.

To make sure emerging insights can be shared and put to use, the researchers have also established a coalition of more than 50 experts around the world who are studying COVID-19 in pregnancy. The coalition includes representatives from the World Health Organization, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health.

For more on the research you have generously supported, please see:

- [**Coronavirus: Can Survivors' Blood Help Others Too Weak to Fight?**](#)
- [**Virus Disrupts Pregnancy Plans, Raises Anxiety and Questions**](#)





Prioritizing High-Risk Populations and Protecting Mental Health

Your donation has helped us improve prevention, testing, and care for people living in particularly high-risk conditions and shore up the emotional health of our frontline workers.

Producing Hand Sanitizer for Those Who Need It Most

Your generosity has supported a group of UCSF scientists who are providing alcohol-based hand sanitizer to people in the Bay Area who face unique challenges to protecting themselves from the spread of COVID-19. Most of the 1,000-plus gallons of sanitizer have been sent to prisons and jails throughout California, with the remainder going to people living in homeless shelters or similar low-income housing situations that make social distancing difficult or impossible. Each bottle comes with an educational pamphlet on how to protect yourself from infection.

Strengthening Pandemic Response in Low-Income Countries

As COVID-19 cases increase in low-income countries, the pandemic will pose unique challenges to health systems and communities that are already profoundly underresourced compared to the US. Your donation is helping UCSF's Global Health Group launch a new initiative to mitigate COVID-19 and the widespread devastation it threatens to unleash in the developing world.

Because a lack of data on infection rates has contributed to inadequate government response to COVID-19 in many countries, the team will initially focus on improving detection and mapping of cases. The necessary numbers of COVID-19 tests will be difficult for many low-income countries to secure, so the Global Health Group and its partners are working with community-based organizations to gather local data on COVID-19 symptoms and evaluate whether this information can be used to reliably track emerging outbreaks. In addition, the team is studying which promising COVID-19 treatments might be most effective in low-income countries, which typically lack the resources to provide intensive, hospital-based care on a massive scale.

The initiative will build upon the Global Health Group's expertise in community-based delivery of health interventions, which have proven effective in reducing malaria and other infectious diseases that plague developing countries. The project's success will also rely on existing relationships that the Global Health Group and its partners have established with leaders and experts working in low-income countries throughout Africa and Asia.

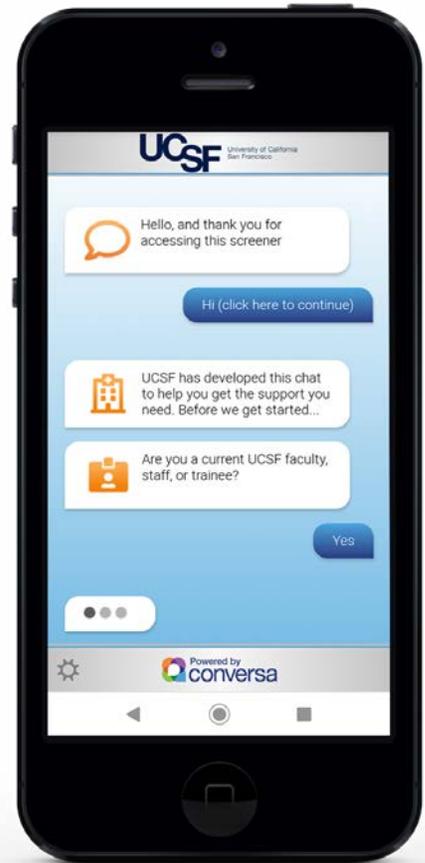
Supporting the Mental Health of Our Faculty and Staff

The pandemic has challenged the mental health of many, and health care workers in particular have experienced a spike in stress. That's why we are expanding a mental health program designed specifically for UCSF faculty, staff, and trainees coping with the impact of COVID-19.

The program has provided assessment, treatment, and referral resources designed to support emotional health for several weeks now. But experts continue to add new options to the collection of online self-management tools – for example, developing a tool specifically for those who have just tested positive for COVID-19. Program staff members are also introducing new evening clinic hours to support employees who cannot access treatment during the day.

For more on the care and innovation you have supported, see:

- [UCSF Team of Scientists Produces, Distributes Hand Sanitizer for Bay Area's Incarcerated, Most Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [Flattening the COVID-19 Curve in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)
- [UCSF Employee Coping and Resiliency Program](#)





Thank You

Our scientists, physicians, and researchers have continued to advance our understanding of COVID-19 and the standard of care for patients – locally and globally – thanks to your support. We appreciate your important contribution to UCSF's efforts to rapidly reduce the harm caused by the pandemic.

See our [April](#) and [May](#) updates to learn more about UCSF's response to COVID-19 and how donations like yours have made a difference in recent months.

Get the latest news on UCSF's COVID-19 initiatives [here](#).



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