

Monday, March 9, 2020

Dear I-House Residents,

We would like to update you on the most recent measures I-House is taking in response to the rapidly evolving situation with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

In addition to following guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as from the UC Office of the President and UC Berkeley campus leaders, I-House is taking the following measures:

- Ongoing deep cleaning of all public surfaces within I-House — including hiring supplemental custodial staff to ensure that this work continues throughout the upcoming weeks.
- Identifying appropriate spaces for possible physical isolation of any affected residents, should any I-House resident(s) test positive for the novel coronavirus.
- If you have a confirmed respiratory ailment, we encourage you to visit the I-House Admissions Office during regular business hours (beginning on Tuesday, March 10) to obtain an N-95 respirator mask. **Please note** that such masks are **not** recommended by the CDC for healthy individuals at this time. As our supply is limited, we will distribute these **only** to individuals who are currently experiencing symptoms.
- Attempting to procure more hand sanitizer stations for resident use. These are presently in high demand and in short supply; it may take several weeks to procure these stations; we are doing all we can to get them as soon as possible.
- In light of Chancellor Carol Christ's all-campus message dated today (March 9, 2020), I-House is continuing to consider what further actions we need to take. We will be discussing additional measures (and policies) at the upcoming meeting of the I-House Board of Directors, which is taking place this Thursday, March 12th, and will inform you of any additional actions after that date
- Continuing to closely monitor all developments in this fast-moving situation, including staying in contact with relevant UC and campus authorities.

Please also note the following measures that you can take:

- Be extremely judicious about where you are planning to travel, especially over spring break. If you are considering traveling to any highly affected area(s), you are potentially putting at risk your ability to return to Berkeley, as quarantines can be announced and enforced at any moment. **Please consider changing any travel plans you might currently have.**
- Please use discretion in determining which events at I-House to attend. And if you are not feeling well, please do not attend public events at I-House.
- Please look after your own mental and emotional health during this time of uncertainty. If you need support, please contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) located at the Tang Center
 - To talk to a counselor: call (510) 642-9494.
 - Students can also be seen for crisis drop-in Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - If you need to speak with a counselor urgently when the Tang Center is closed, please call the 24/7 counseling line at (855) 817-5667
- You can stay abreast of developments by visiting the following campus website: <https://news.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/health/>

Our hearts go out to all those affected by COVID-19, and we hope that by taking what proactive measures we can now, we will at least be able to lessen the impact of this contagious virus.

With sincerest best wishes,

Hans Giesecke
I-House Executive Director

Jason Patent
Chief of Strategy and
Director of the Robertson Center
for Intercultural Leadership