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April 28, 2020 – COVID-19 Update

UC Hastings College of the Law

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UC Hastings Law

SAN FRANCISCO

April 28, 2020

Dear UC Hastings Community,

Exams are upon us, and we want to start this message by applauding our students who have demonstrated incredible focus and perseverance during this extremely challenging semester. We wish you all a very strong finish to the year.

Included below are updates on UC Hastings Law's COVID-19 planning and response efforts including information about a reported infection and recovery of a community member, the extension of applicable shelter-in-place orders, commencement plans, and our preparations for summer session, the fall term, and the eventual resumption of on-campus operations.

First Reported Community Member Infection

We recently learned of our first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the UC Hastings Law community. Fortunately, the individual is doing well and recovering. This individual has not been on campus for more than 30 days, which was long before any potential incubation period of concern.

If you believe you may have COVID-19, please contact a healthcare provider; also, if you are a resident or essential employee in the City and County of San Francisco, COVID-19 testing is now available for individuals experiencing one or more symptoms. Instructions on accessing that testing are available [here](#). We encourage members of our community to continue to practice all measures recommended by Public Health, including staying at home other than to access an essential business or engage in an essential activity; wearing a face covering when in public; maintaining social distancing of six feet; washing hands regularly; and staying home when sick.

Shelter-in-Place Orders

Shelter-in-place orders now extend through May.

Seven Bay Area Health Officers, including the Health Officer for the City & County of San Francisco, announced on April 27 that they will issue revised shelter-in-place orders extending beyond the current May 3rd date that "largely keep the current restrictions in place and extend them through May," though the new order will "include limited easing of specific restrictions of a small number of lower-risk activities." We anticipate seeing the revised Public Health Order providing for extension of the shelter-in-place restrictions through May 31 along with any new prescriptive requirements, as well as the added permissible activities, in the next few days. At the same time, the Bay Area announcement preceded the State's announcement, the latter of which largely indicated a status quo for the next few weeks, so we do not expect much in the way of additional permissible activities.

At the State level, Governor Gavin Newsom previously [issued a framework](#) that outlines six indicators for evaluating when to start loosening shelter-in-place restrictions, regarding which the City and

County of San Francisco will have to assess and report. Today, Governor Newsom announced a four-phased reopening for businesses and schools, which is based upon progress on the six indicators previously established. We are currently in Phase One, which is a continuation of the shelter-in-place order with only essential businesses open. Phase Two would permit lower risk workplaces not currently deemed essential including retail; manufacturing; offices where telework is not possible; public spaces (e.g., parks and trails); and notably for our purposes as well as parents in our community, childcare centers and schools, to reopen with prescriptive industry-specific restrictions and modifications yet to be established and disseminated. Phase Three permits reopening of higher risk services such as gyms, barbers, and entertainment venues (e.g., movie theatres). Phase Four is the highest risk category of concerts, convention centers, and live audience sports. While Governor Newsom did not offer specific dates, he noted that we are “weeks not months away” from transitioning into Phase Two, and “months not weeks” away from transitioning into Phases Three and Four. Moreover, he shared that the State will set the overarching framework, which local municipalities, under the direction of their Public Health officers, will implement locally based upon local circumstances.

Commencement Update

Although nothing can replace an in-person commencement celebration, in collaboration with student leaders, we have created virtual platforms to celebrate our graduating students. All Hastings community members have access to a Community Farewell Wall for the Class of 2020 (<https://uchastings.padlet.org/comms/classof2020wall>) to post messages of congratulations and encouragement to our graduates. A second Class of 2020 Wall has been set up for the graduates to communicate privately with each other. On May 11, the originally scheduled Commencement date, we will release a special video message from members of the community to the graduating class. We also hope that we will be able to celebrate in person with the Class of 2020 sometime in the not-too-distant future. We will update you as we learn more about appropriate timing and conditions regarding large in-person gatherings, but if you have questions, please reach out to Grace Hum, Assistant Dean of Students.

Summer Session and Fall 2020 Academic Planning

Summer session courses will be fully online with take-home exams. Registration is still open, and we are adding new classes to meet student demand.

Academic Dean Morris Ratner is leading a recovery planning effort to resume regular instruction in Fall 2020, with input from faculty, staff, and students. Plans will be informed by expected guidance from the ABA and the U.S. Department of Education, and local health measures and conditions. Assuming it is safe and appropriate to do so, the College will offer in-person classes, in addition to enhanced online opportunities. We are planning how best to serve our students and protect our community, including through social distancing. We will publish a course schedule next month, and update it before registration in late June or early July, by which time we will have more information regarding instructional delivery options. Dean Ratner will provide more information on the Fall 2020 schedule in the coming weeks.

Resumption of On-Campus Operations

Irrespective of timing on the loosening of shelter-in-place restrictions, we want to remain flexible to individual circumstances related to resuming on-campus operations. Human Resources will consult

individually with managers as shelter-in-place restrictions are lifted to evaluate when individual employees can and should return to campus, as we expect this will be a staggered process. Until restrictions have been lifted, please continue to obtain approval from either Rhiannon Bailard or Andrew Scott prior to engaging in any on-campus activities.

As always, we remain grateful for the resilience and patience of our community. Given these quickly evolving plans, we will continue to keep you updated as new information is available. For real time updates, please refer to our [COVID-19 page on My Hastings](#).

Sincerely,

Core Pandemic Response Team

- David Faigman, Chancellor & Dean
- Jenny Kwon, Assistant Chancellor & Dean/Chief of Staff
- Morris Ratner, Academic Dean
- David Seward, Chief Financial Officer
- Grace Hum, Assistant Dean of Students
- Rhiannon Bailard, Executive Director of Operations*
- Andrew Scott, Director of Human Resources*
- Sybil Wyatt, Chief Communications Officer
- John DiPaolo, General Counsel
- Camilla Tubbs, Associate Dean for Library and Technology
- Glenn Cooney, Medical Director of Student Health Services
- Jarda Brych, Director of Auxiliary Operations

*Plan Co-Administrators