

## **A Resolution to Ensure UCLA’s Health, Safety, and Wellness in Response to COVID-19**

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### **Supporting Organizations:**

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Afrikan Student Union

Afro-Latinx Connection

UCLA Swipe Out Hunger

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**WHEREAS**, the Undergraduate Student Association Council’s highest priority is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the students, faculty, and staff, and

**WHEREAS**, lack of universal masking mandates for indoor spaces and crowded outdoor spaces at school leads to thousands of student, staff, and faculty absences due to illness, having a significant negative impact on learning, livelihoods, and health, and<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, state, local, federal, and global levels of COVID are severely undercounted and underreported due to the dismantling of COVID tracking, testing, and reporting, with wastewater data being the most accurate representation of current COVID population levels, and<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the UC system and the state, local, and federal levels of government are denying the severity of the pandemic, while students, faculty, and staff are forced to go to school and work without layered protective mitigation measures in place, and

**WHEREAS**, the long-term risks of reinfection are common, and data shows “a consistent pattern of increased likelihood of hospitalization, cardiovascular effects, clotting and other blood disorders, diabetes, fatigue, gastrointestinal distress, kidney damage, mental health effects such as depression, musculoskeletal damage, neurological deficits, and pulmonary damage with each episode,” and<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, anybody who has previously been infected with any strain of COVID-19 is at heightened risk for severe illness from COVID-19 for asymptomatic, mild, moderate, and severe cases,<sup>4</sup> and is therefore encompassed within the heightened risk population that includes those who are immunocompromised, chronically ill, disabled, are a racial or ethnic minority, hold intersectional identity, have mood disorders, and<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, BIPOC make up close to 65% of UCLA’s undergraduate population alone, and therefore most of UCLA’s undergraduate population is at heightened risk just based off of demographic data,<sup>6</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://time.com/6231516/universal-masking-in-school-works-new-data-shows-how-well/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://youtu.be/YkqAmg63ZSs?t=1580>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2022/12/covid-reinfection>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.yalemedicine.org/conditions/long-covid-post-acute-sequelae-of-sars-cov-2-infection-pasc>

<sup>5</sup>

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html#:~:text=Having%20mood%20disorders%2C%20including%20depression,of%20Mental%20Health%20\(NIMH\)%20Depression](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html#:~:text=Having%20mood%20disorders%2C%20including%20depression,of%20Mental%20Health%20(NIMH)%20Depression)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ucla.edu/about/facts-and-figures>

**WHEREAS**, wealthy and powerful people are continuing to protect themselves from COVID, while many of them seek to strip away COVID protections from everyone else, especially poor people, working class people, disabled people, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and people of color,<sup>7</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, untracked, circulating COVID-19 leads to more viral mutations and immune-evasive variants such as EG.5 and the highly mutated BA.2.86 variant, where the lack of surveillance and mitigations to stop spread has led to the World Health Organization admitting it is deeply concerned that there is not enough rapid information being shared to truly track and respond to COVID-19 in a timely manner, and<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, 27.9% of all American adults who have known to previously had COVID, and 14.9% of all American adults, have Long-COVID<sup>9</sup>, according to the last eight weeks of the U.S Census Bureau’s Phase 3.9 Household Pulse Survey, which has a sample size of hundreds of thousands of people, and as a reminder, 7-10% more of the U.S. population is expected to become infected in the next six weeks, meaning 2% of the entire US population will be permanently disabled, AKA 6.7 million people becoming permanently disabled from COVID-19 and needing longer term care,<sup>10</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the Biden administration has amassed over 1.1 million deaths from COVID-19 during its term, which by its own and all reasonable standards is a horrific failure to fulfill the most basic responsibilities of government.<sup>11,12</sup> The federal government continues to pretend the pandemic is not a threat anymore to the public at large while continuing to take their own internal precautions, and<sup>13,14</sup>

## **SECTION I: MASKING and PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, UCLA has a “strong recommendation for masks” indoors,<sup>15</sup> but has ordered almost all departments to remove masking signage that clearly states that recommendation, as well as

<sup>7</sup> <https://slate.com/technology/2023/01/davos-covid-precaution-uv-lights-air-filters.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KkUdFBB5Ac>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/hhp/#/?measures=LONGCOVID\\_1](https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/hhp/#/?measures=LONGCOVID_1)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/12/happy-new-year-2023.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/JoeBiden/status/1319446692236791814>

<sup>12</sup> <https://covid19.who.int/region/amro/country/us>

<sup>13</sup>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/04/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-90000-american-deaths-from-covid-19/>

<sup>14</sup>

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c5078296/white-house-covid-testing-protocols-place-israeli-delegation-members-test-positive>

<sup>15</sup> <https://covid-19.ucla.edu/wear-your-face-mask/#:~:text=Indoors,campus%20and%20at%20UCLA%20facilities.>

forbidding individual departments and groups from requiring masks in their spaces for the sake of ‘equity’ and the political optics of ‘normal.’ At the start of the school year, UCLA is now putting scant amounts of signage back up, but not everywhere. UCLA cannot claim it is prioritizing the health and safety of its constituents when it prevents departments and groups from requiring masks, and certainly not when UCLA isn’t consistent in its own messaging, and

**WHEREAS**, in response to rising cases and transmission, Morris Brown, a historically Black college university in Atlanta, Georgia, is requiring all students and employees to wear face masks, maintain physical distance, fill out symptom monitoring, use contact tracing, and limit large gatherings,<sup>16</sup> and UCLA as a supposed “top university” is failing to protect its constituents in comparison to Morris Brown, and

**WHEREAS**, in response to rising cases and transmission, health care company Kaiser Permanente has also reintroduced mask mandates in the Santa Rosa hospital and medical offices for all people, as well as New York’s United Health Services, Auburn Community Hospital, and Upstate Medical’s hospitals in Syracuse,<sup>17</sup> but UCLA has decided to remove its mask mandate in healthcare following LACDPH’s August 11th rescindment of the healthcare mask mandate, and

**WHEREAS**, UCLA is quietly discontinuing its Mask Distribution to departments as of July 1, 2023, and will be liquidating their remaining inventory through December 15, 2023.<sup>18</sup> The Sep 22, 2023 email mentions that masks are still available, but doesn’t mention that the distribution program is ending, and this is an obfuscation of vital information. UCLA should be continuing Mask Distribution operations and even expanding distributions by making masks such as KN95s and KF94s available in addition to the N95s they offer. This is due to how NIOSH testing is made for white male faces and KN95 and KF94 masks offer better fit for many non-white-male individuals, and protection is maximized when respirators are high quality and well-fitting for the wearer, since surgical masks offer some protection but not nearly as much as respirators,<sup>19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26</sup> and

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.instagram.com/p/CwLcj0qAeWZ/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/p/CwLcj0qAeWZ/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/mask-mandates-return-list-places-restrictions-1823069>

<sup>18</sup> <https://ehs.ucla.edu/ucla-mask-distribution>

<sup>19</sup> [https://macsphere.mcmaster.ca/bitstream/11375/28032/2/Sheikh\\_Fatima\\_202208\\_MSc.pdf](https://macsphere.mcmaster.ca/bitstream/11375/28032/2/Sheikh_Fatima_202208_MSc.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> <https://academic.oup.com/annweh/article/53/3/297/173431?login=true>

<sup>21</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16126767/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://brieflands.com/articles/healthscope-62884.html>

<sup>23</sup> <https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1476-069X-10-17>

<sup>24</sup>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6470259\\_Racial\\_Differences\\_in\\_Respirator\\_Fit\\_Testing\\_A\\_Pilot\\_Study\\_of\\_Whether\\_American\\_Fit\\_Panels\\_are\\_Representative\\_of\\_Chinese\\_Faces](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6470259_Racial_Differences_in_Respirator_Fit_Testing_A_Pilot_Study_of_Whether_American_Fit_Panels_are_Representative_of_Chinese_Faces)

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.axios.com/2022/01/11/n95-mask-protection-covid>

<sup>26</sup>

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/commentary-wear-respirator-not-cloth-or-surgical-mask-protect-against-respiratory-viruses>

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, in conjunction with The Emergency Management Policy Group, the Infectious Disease Management Task Force, and UCLA Transportation, we demand the reintroduction of a mask mandate and increased availability of personal protective equipment, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to reintroduce a universal mask mandate for indoor and crowded outdoor spaces, including University affiliated transportation such as BruinBus, Bruin Access, Safe Ride, etc., and display signage at the entryways for every building and transportation vehicle to accurately represent policy, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to resume its Mask Distribution operations for departments and provide N95, KN95, and KF94 respirator masks, as well as make those masks available FOR FREE in high foot traffic areas such as on The Hill, on off-campus University-owned housing, transportation vehicles, etc., including in locations already named by UCLA such as Ackerman Union, John Wooden Center, etc., since it is the University's duty to ensure that protective respirators are accessible to all its constituents, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC urges that University of California Los Angeles should place N95, KN95, and KF94 respirators and PCR and rapid testing kits in identity-based resource centers, including but not limited to, the UCLA LGBTQ CRC, Black Bruins Resource Center, Bruins Resource Center, Veterans Resource Center, Latinx Resource Center, Transfer Students Center, American Indian Studies Center, Hillel, the soon-to-be Disability Cultural Center and Pacific Islands' Community Center, as well as the Student Activities Center (SAC), and Kerckhoff Hall, as both SAC and Kerckhoff house diverse student groups and organizations.

## **SECTION II: TESTING**

**WHEREAS**, wastewater is very high in Los Angeles, reporting increases in COVID transmission in Los Angeles County,<sup>27,28</sup> which is an undercount according to wastewater data indicating levels higher than 63% of the days of the pandemic thus far, and<sup>29</sup>

**WHEREAS**, wastewater levels of COVID-19 are extremely high in the United States at large, where "U.S. COVID infections are hovering near levels of the pandemic's first peak in 2020, and approaching the Delta peak of late 2021, according to wastewater surveillance and modeling by

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<sup>27</sup>

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/media/mediapubdetail.cfm?unit=media&ou=ph&prog=media&cur=cur&prid=4497&row=25&start=1>

<sup>28</sup> <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/data/#>

<sup>29</sup> <https://biobot.io/data/>

forecasters. Viral wastewater levels are not far behind all of the pandemic’s 2020 peaks except for one—the initial peak of March 2020, which they’ve already surpassed. And they lag just slightly [behind] levels seen during the deadly Delta peak of late 2021, according to Biobot Analytics, which monitors such data for the federal government. A forecast issued this week by Jay Weiland, a leading COVID modeler, came to the same conclusions. On Thursday, Weiland estimated that 650,000 Americans are becoming infected daily, with 1 in 51 Americans currently infected with COVID. An additional 7% to 10% of the U.S. population will be infected over the next month and a half, Weiland predicted.”<sup>30</sup> and at the peak of testing and reporting, the CDC still estimated that only ~25% of COVID-19 cases were reported,<sup>31</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, “a significant proportion of COVID-19 transmission is asymptomatic or presymptomatic – potentially as high as 60%”<sup>32,33</sup> and “Rapid COVID tests miss 90% of asymptomatic cases” with single administration versus serial testing multiple times over the course of multiple days,<sup>34</sup> indicating the need for consistent, accurate testing to be available and administered, as well as universal masking, and

**WHEREAS**, the discontinuation of mandated weekly PCR testing and of many of the easily accessible vending machines for PCR test drop-offs is very dangerous to the UCLA community, as well as not processing PCR tests on the weekends or sending out automated isolation instructions and resource information immediately on the processing of the PCR test such that students have had to wait until three days later (“one business day”) to receive instructions if the test returns, which is nowhere near timely enough to reduce transmission, and

**WHEREAS**, UCLA has been providing free PCR testing by providing an open basket of PCR tests, and also through the following avenue: “Any student, staff, faculty or approved non-affiliates with an active BruinCard can receive up to two self-test kits each week using the vending machines available on campus. BruinCards automatically receive a weekly credit to be used to purchase COVID-19 tests from these dedicated machines. Credits will not be valid at any other vending machines or for any other use.”<sup>35</sup> UCLA should continue to keep this system active, and

**WHEREAS**, there has been high demand for free rapid antigen tests on The Hill and through Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center (ASHE), and UCLA’s response to the high

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<sup>30</sup>

<https://fortune.com/well/2023/09/16/united-states-covid-levels-approach-first-pandemic-peak-2020-who-urges-vaccination-boosters-high-risk/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html>

<sup>32</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/covid-transmission-asymptomatic/story?id=84599810>

<sup>33</sup> <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2774707>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02254-9>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu/covid-19-self-test-options-campus>

demand for free rapid tests when they were available was to stop distributing rapid tests on The Hill and to create an appointment barrier through ASHE, and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** in conjunction with The Emergency Management Policy Group, the Infectious Disease Management Task Force, UCLA Housing and the Arthur Ashe Center, we demand the expansion of both PCR and Rapid testing in residential areas and on campus, and reintroduce waste water testing for all residential buildings, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to continue to provide the existing PCR vending machines and drop-off sites and processing, continue the free provision of these tests for UCLA constituents and non-affiliates, reinstate the discontinued PCR vending machines and drop off sites, especially the ones on The Hill and in high foot traffic areas on campus, expand PCR vending machines and drop off sites to be easily accessible to off-campus University-owned housing, broadcast the availability of free PCRs, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to process PCR tests on the weekends, and to send out automated isolation instructions and resource information immediately on the receipt of positive test as well as multiple different avenues for automated messaging based on the answers to the survey UCLA sends out, such that students do not have to wait a full business day for their individual case to be reviewed to receive timely assistance, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to provide easily accessible free Rapid Antigen Tests available to all UCLA constituents through BruinCard access, which includes providing tests on-site for all University-owned housing at the front desks for each Hall on the Hill, as well as off-campus University-owned housing at the front desk, as well as making all Rapid Test Vending Machine locations free of charge (Ackerman Union A Level, Haines Hall, Pauley Pavilion, Neuroscience Building, Ackerman Union Student Store, Bruin Health Pharmacy), and

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**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to reinstate wastewater tracking and public reporting, expand wastewater tracking to off-campus housing, as well as building alerts for viral presence in sewage that require residents to get tested within 24 hrs as before, as well as publicly reinstating, providing, and regularly updating the UCLA COVID-19 tracking data and graph.

### **SECTION III: VACCINES and MEDICATION**

**WHEREAS**, due to waning immunity from previous COVID vaccines and constant variant mutations, and that immunity provided by vaccine doses wanes quickly,<sup>36</sup> repeated and timely updated COVID vaccinations for the population are vital and call for urgent messaging. On September 12, 2023, the Center of Disease Control (CDC) “is now recommending updated COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 6 months and older to better protect you and your loved ones.”<sup>37</sup> The new vaccine is meant to replace the initial primary series of vaccination for COVID-19, since the immunity provided from the initial primary series has waned enough to be not effective enough against the new variants, and is therefore not a ‘booster.’<sup>38</sup> However, the University of California has not informed its constituents enough about the new XBB 1.5 COVID-19 vaccine in terms of the availability of both Moderna, Pfizer, AND Novavax, nor stated or updated their systems to reflect that unless students, faculty, and staff to get the new COVID vaccine, then they are NOT up-to-date, per the CDC, and

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<sup>36</sup> <https://time.com/6276552/covid-19-vaccine-immunity-wanes/>

<sup>37</sup>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/09/12/1199003441/cdc-advisers-back-broad-rollout-out-of-new-covid-boosters>

<sup>38</sup>

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-takes-action-updated-mrna-covid-19-vaccines-better-protect-against-currently-circulating>



**WHEREAS**, the University of California Los Angeles, as well as the UC wide system, already requires an annual influenza vaccination, as well as Tuberculosis screening, Measles, Mumps, Tdap, Rubella and Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccinations for all of its constituents, and the UC system has required COVID-19 vaccinations in the past, along with religious and medical exemption,<sup>39</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, ASHE does not provide Paxlovid, Veklury, Lagevrio, or any other antivirals or medications widely used to help treat initial COVID-19 severity, even though it is recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC)<sup>40</sup> for those who are at risk, and since ‘at-risk’ includes racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA+ identity, individuals with mood disorders, individuals who’ve previously had COVID (including asymptomatic cases which they may not be aware of) and individuals with Attention Hyper Deficit Disorder, ‘at-risk’ encompasses a significant portion of the population,<sup>41,42</sup> and

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** in conjunction with The Emergency Management Policy Group, the Infectious Disease Management Task Force, and the Arthur Ashe Center, we demand the annual requirement of the most recent COVID-19 vaccinations and provisions of life saving antiviral medications, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC asks the University of California Los Angeles to mandate its students, faculty and staff to acquire their updated COVID-19 vaccinations by November 1st, as UCLA has mandated COVID-19 vaccinations in the past already, and to *provide* the vaccines to their constituents at little to no cost (significantly less than \$150-\$200). This is because delays in vaccine rollout and insurance systems changing actively hinders people trying to get vaccinated, and paying out of pocket for vaccines, hoping insurance will reimburse them, is simply not possible for many people.<sup>43</sup> Additionally, since vaccination availability is paramount, and that the vaccines options include Moderna, Pfizer, and Novavax, and to mandate and provide subsequent COVID-19 vaccines within the shortest time frame possible after release, while also understanding that there are some individuals that qualify for medical exemption due to chronic illness, disability, and pre-existing health conditions, and to be inclusive of those identities, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to provide at free to next-to-no-cost a variety of antiviral medications through UCLA ASHE center, including but not limited to, Paxlovid, Veklury, Lagevrio, and more, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC)<sup>40</sup> for those who are at risk, and since ‘at-risk’ includes racial

<sup>39</sup> <https://immunizationrequirement.ucla.edu/>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/outpatient-treatment-overview.html>

<sup>41</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/underlyingconditions.html#anchor\\_1618433687270](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/underlyingconditions.html#anchor_1618433687270)

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/long-covid.htm>

<sup>43</sup>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/new-covid-vaccine-2023-delays-appointment-canceled-insurance-problems-rcna111475>

and ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA+ identity, individuals with mood disorders, individuals with previous COVID cases, and individuals with Attention Hyper Deficit Disorder, ‘at-risk’ encompasses a significant portion of the population.

## SECTION IV: HOUSING and ISOLATION

**WHEREAS**, the University’s COVID-19 denialist Task Force “Infectious Diseases Management Team,” has removed the need for a negative COVID test to end isolation as well as reducing isolation time to 5 days, citing guidelines of that were originally instituted by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) directly after airline companies lobbied to reduce the 10-day quarantine to 5 days, a reduction not supported by infectious disease transmission and health science but rather a push to open the flight industry,<sup>44,45</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, UCLA’s decision to follow the reduced isolation guidelines from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) when noting that LACDPH “strongly recommends”<sup>46</sup> testing negative for COVID-19 prior to leaving isolation reflects UCLA’s unwillingness to be proactive in reducing transmission, and

**WHEREAS**, UCLA’s claim that there are “isolation and quarantine spaces available to students living in on-campus housing... as space permits”<sup>46</sup> suggests readily available isolation and quarantine spaces, but isolation housing in the 2022-2023 academic year was frequently overwhelmed, and for the upcoming 2023-2024 academic year there has been word from ResLife meetings that there will only be SIX rooms on the same floor as non-isolating rooms (total occupancy = 18) available in De Neve Birch for over 14,000 Hill-dorming students, with no isolation housing to be made available to off-campus University-owned apartments, and

**WHEREAS**, UCLA claims it provides portable air purifiers for multi-occupancy rooms,<sup>47</sup> but dorm rooms count as multiple-occupancy rooms, and UCLA does not provide air purification to dorm rooms on or off campus, and

**WHEREAS**, classic hall dorms do not have individual HVAC systems or private bathrooms, both of which reduce transmission risk but are attainable only at a high economical expense which is an example of another wealth and health inequity,<sup>48</sup> and

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<sup>44</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/12/23/airline-industry-pushes-cdc-to-cut-breakthrough-covid-quarantine-time.html>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-02026-x>

<sup>46</sup>

[https://ucla.app.box.com/s/ytuwjy4j3ntmvfuexfga6jxmwsu6ghd?utm\\_source=1136640395&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=BruinPost&utm\\_content=isolation-sop](https://ucla.app.box.com/s/ytuwjy4j3ntmvfuexfga6jxmwsu6ghd?utm_source=1136640395&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=BruinPost&utm_content=isolation-sop)

<sup>47</sup>

<https://adminvc.ucla.edu/ucla-ventilation-systems-faq#:~:text=For%20recirculating%20air%20systems%2C%20UC%20LA%20are%20based%20on%20maximum%20occupancy.>

<sup>48</sup> <https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/new-students/classic-residence-hall>

**WHEREAS**, UCLA has not made clear to students, staff, and faculty the proper usage and placement of the air purifiers they do provide, and when individuals have contacted UCLA multiple times to identify air purifiers that need new filters, UCLA has failed to respond or address the problem, and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** in conjunction with The Emergency Management Policy Group, the Infectious Disease Management Task Force, Facilities Management, UCLA Housing and Residential Life, we demand the expansion of on-campus isolation beds, changes to isolation policies, maintenance of air filters in multi-occupancy rooms and the reintroduction of takeout dining options, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to reinforce the isolation guidelines for those who test positive for COVID-19 by reinstating the requirement of a minimum of 1-2 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs/rapids) 24 hours apart to end isolation,<sup>49</sup> and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to recognize that providing only 6 isolation rooms in De Neve Birch on the *same floor as non-isolation rooms* for all of The Hill is unacceptable, especially considering that COVID-19 is not the only transmissible virus that would also call for isolation. The University must provide enough isolation and quarantine housing for ALL University-owned housing constituents, with AT LEAST the minimum amount of housing that the previous isolation buildings, De Neve Evergreen, Gayley Heights, etc., provided, and ideally expanding past those capacities since isolation housing was frequently overflowing the past two years, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to provide meal delivery services to those in isolation in addition to consistent monitoring of student well-being, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to stay true to their claims of providing and maintaining air filters to supplement clean air delivery rate to multi-occupancy rooms, providing air filters to all university-owned housing where there is no HVAC available and where UCLA has not upgraded their ventilation system to MERV 13 yet, and to educate students, staff, and faculty on the proper usage and placement of provided air purifiers, and

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<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/safety-communications/home-covid-19-antigen-tests-take-steps-reduce-your-risk-false-negative-results-fda-safety>

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will urge the University of California to reinstate takeout dining options for main food halls such as De Neve, Epicuria at Covell, and Bruin Plate on The Hill in recognition of the high risk of indoor dining, as COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses are aerosolized, as mentioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## **SECTION V: ACCESSIBILITY to EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Disabled Students Union, the USAC, and many organizations have been advocating for hybrid learning for more than two years, and have demonstrated that hybrid learning is popular with UCLA students by getting more than 30,000 signatures on petitions for hybrid learning<sup>50</sup> and building a coalition of organizations representing most UCLA students for the Strike For Our Safety which had hybrid learning as a central demand, and<sup>51</sup>

**WHEREAS**, UCLA's complete disregard for disabled students' concerns and retention by ignoring the previous USAC resolution calling for the removal of punitive notations and other efforts by disabled and allied student advocates furthers the oppression of disabled students,<sup>52</sup> especially those from diverse backgrounds, as well as not acknowledging the continuing mental and physical health of students and the intense emotional and physical burdens of the COVID-19 pandemic, and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, in conjunction with Erin Sanders O'Leary, Vice Provost Teaching and Learning; Monroe Gordon Jr., Vice Chancellor Student Affairs; and the Academic Senate; we demand the expansion of BruinCast and subsequent hybrid learning access, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will pressure the University of California Los Angeles to work closely with students, academic workers, lecturers and the Academic Senate to instate the following: recorded and live streamed lectures, discussions, and labs, arts, and performing arts where possible, such as through BruinCast and Zoom, and for labs, arts, and performing arts, which can be difficult to implement online, to offer multiple dates/make-up options, and

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<sup>50</sup> <https://www.change.org/p/ucla-stop-endangering-us-let-disabled-bruins-learn-remotely> + <https://www.change.org/p/strike-for-our-safety-support-a-permanent-hybrid-learning-option-at-ucla>

<sup>51</sup> <https://femmagazine.com/strike-for-our-safety-protesting-the-push-for-in-person-classes/> (the Mother Orgs + the DSU represent UCLA's students of color and queer and disabled students, who comprise a majority of the student body, and the Strike For Our Safety received tremendous support from democratically elected USAC officers)

<sup>52</sup>

<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2022-05-22.Resolution%20For%20The%20Removal%20of%20Punitive%20Notations%20From%20Student%20Transcripts%20.pdf>

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC re-urges the University of California Los Angeles administration to implement the changes previously called for in the resolution passed through USAC in the 2021-2022 academic year,<sup>53</sup> and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will pressure the University of California Los Angeles to implement the changes called for in the previous, unanimously passed USAC resolution calling for changes to the usage and removal process of punitive notations,<sup>52</sup> and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to mandate the finalized Disability Inclusion Training for ALL educators (professors, lecturers, TAs),<sup>54</sup> regardless of tenure status or length of employment.

## **SECTION VI: COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION, and TRANSPARENCY**

**WHEREAS**, notifications to the UCLA community from the Infectious Diseases Management Team have not been timely enough, and the content of these notifications is misleading. Messaging in an email on Sep 22, 2023 at 1:00 PM to the Bruin Community mentions handwashing before masking in relation to protection from an aerosolized disease. Additionally, IDMT does not cite their sources in terms of ‘severity remaining low’ for COVID-19, and as wastewater levels are mentioned in previous sections, actual COVID-19 levels are something the IDMT is not reporting on, and

**WHEREAS**, in the Sep 22, 2023 email, it mentions that for students who test positive for COVID-19, “The Exposure Management Team will provide students with an individualized assessment, including instructions on isolation and further testing, and will notify individuals identified as close contacts (as capacity allows).” Isolation housing is not mentioned in this email at all. This lack of transparency is unfair to the student body, especially when this email has been sent out after many students have already moved-in, and the start of the school year is within a week, and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, in conjunction with Mary Osako, Vice Chancellor Strategic Communications; The Emergency Management Policy Group, and the Infectious Disease Management Task Force, we demand the expansion of on-campus isolation beds, changes to isolation policies, maintenance of air filters in multi-occupancy rooms and the reintroduction of takeout dining options, and

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<sup>53</sup>

<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2022-02-01.A%20Resolution%20Supporting%20Remote%20Learning%20Options.pdf>

<sup>54</sup> <https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/courses/167390>

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to update all of their websites that have outdated policies and information, as misinformation sows confusion, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC asks the University of California Los Angeles to expand the Infectious Disease Management Taskforce to implement the data tracking and reporting updates that the previous COVID-19 Task Force had handled, as well as expand the UCLA Exposure Management Team to handle caseload, and to include students in the meetings and decisions being made, especially making an effort to include marginalized groups, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to prioritize the messaging of high-quality, consistent, universal masking being effective against airborne viruses such as COVID-19, with handwashing being important but not the number one prevention strategy.

## **SECTION VII: LONG TERM VENTILATION UPGRADES**

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), following CDC guidelines, recommends a MINIMUM of 6 air changes per hour, and “In California, Title 24-2019 Energy Efficiency Standards now require a MERV 13 or higher filter for schools with mechanical ventilation systems.”<sup>55</sup> As mentioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency “Transmission of COVID-19 from inhalation of virus in the air can occur at distances greater than six feet. Particles from an infected person can move throughout an entire room or indoor space. The particles can also linger in the air after a person has left the room – they can remain airborne for hours in some cases,”<sup>56</sup> but UCLA still has poor ventilation in many of the older buildings on our 103-year old campus, on The Hill, and in University-owned off-campus housing,<sup>57</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, UCLA’s Ventilation Systems page does not state it is evaluating, upgrading, or has upgraded any of the off-campus University-owned apartments,<sup>57</sup> which student transfers occupy the majority of, and for a population that is majority BIPOC and both frequently overlooked and underrepresented, this displays direct neglect of a significant portion of UCLA’s population, and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** in conjunction with The Emergency Management Policy Group, the Infectious Disease Management Task Force, Facilities Management, UCLA

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<sup>55</sup>

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHLB/IAQ/CDPH%20Document%20Library/School\\_ventilation\\_and\\_filtration\\_ADA.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHLB/IAQ/CDPH%20Document%20Library/School_ventilation_and_filtration_ADA.pdf)

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/indoor-air-and-coronavirus-covid-19>

<sup>57</sup> <https://adminvc.ucla.edu/building-ventilation-assessment-status>

Housing and Residential Life, we demand upgrades and maintenance of air filters in multi-occupancy rooms in residential and campus buildings, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to establish and maintain CADPH's ventilation recommendations in all UCLA owned buildings, including all University-owned housing, to get to the recommended 6 minimum air changes per hour in non-healthcare environments (12 recommended for healthcare environments).<sup>58,59,60</sup>

## **SECTION VIII: FAIR LABOR STANDARDS and COMPENSATION**

**WHEREAS**, student workers counted as 'Casual/Restricted' or 'Per Diem' do not typically receive sick pay or sick leave for illness and when they do it is based on accrual which suggests someone must earn the right to be able to be sick and also survive, placing extreme hardship on students who depend on their job, and Teaching Assistants (TAs) do not receive adequate sick pay or sick leave either as they are not full-time employees, and

**WHEREAS**, Residential Assistants in particular are not provided adequate sick leave or sick pay<sup>61</sup> and with UCLA making isolation housing extremely inaccessible, Residential Assistants and other ResLife and Housing workers should not be expected to perform their duties while they themselves are sick, and

**WHEREAS**, former UC President Janet A. Napolitano issued an executive order March 16, 2020 providing all employees with 128 hours of paid administrative leave specifically for COVID-19 related reasons,<sup>62</sup> but no further sick leave/pay provisions were made for the past three years, and

**WHEREAS**, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that distributed grants to students that demonstrated financial need through their 2021/2022 FAFSA or Dream Act, although minimal, was extremely beneficial to students who received the grants, but the Fund was not active for the 2022-2023 academic year,<sup>63</sup> and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** in conjunction with ASUCLA Leadership, Roy Champawat, Student Union Director and Pouria Abbassi, ASUCLA CEO; Residential Life and

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<sup>58</sup> <https://time.com/6206343/schools-ventilation-covid-19-air-quality/>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.ed.gov/improving-ventilation-schools-colleges-and-universities-prevent-covid-19>

<sup>60</sup> <https://peoplescdc.org/2022/09/23/ventilation-for-coronavirus-in-schools/>

<sup>61</sup> <https://reslife.ucla.edu/employment/resident-assistant-job-description>

<sup>62</sup> <https://ucla.app.box.com/v/exec-order-paid-leave>

<sup>63</sup> <https://financialaid.ucla.edu/higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-heerf3-faq>

Housing, we demand accommodations for students and faculty on sick leave and compensation for all UCLA and ASUCLA workers, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will urge the University of California to provide sick pay, Paid Time Off, and sick leave for illness to student workers, Residential Assistants, Teaching Assistants, and all other University workers who do not currently have those policies in place in their job contract, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC asks the University of California Los Angeles to recognize that many members of the UCLA community are enduring Long-COVID, will work with UCLA students, workers, and faculty to develop policies and programs upholding the rights and advancing the wellbeing of people at UCLA and beyond who are suffering from Long-COVID,<sup>64</sup> including but not limited to providing good-quality patient-centered care and all necessary accommodations and support for all UCLA students, workers, and faculty with Long-COVID, as well as engaging in community-based research on Long-COVID, and

## **FINALLY, LET IT BE RESOLVED**

The USAC will urge UCLA to follow the U.S. Department of Education’s insistence that “Consistent with CDC guidance, [schools must] prioritize offering in-person learning to all students by implementing layered prevention strategies from the very start of the school year. This includes helping everyone eligible to get vaccinated, universal and correct indoor masking, improving ventilation, physical distancing to the maximum extent possible, implementing screening testing programs, contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, and more.”<sup>59</sup> and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to not collectively sacrifice the safety and health of their constituents for political and economic means under the guise of a propagandic “normal,” and that USAC will not stand by as UCLA quietly abandons its population, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC, in collaboration with the Disabled Students Union, Disability Justice Committee and other advocacy groups, will advocate for COVID protections and accessible learning through measures including but not limited to policy and legal advocacy, campus organizing, and making all of our events as COVID-safe and accessible as possible.

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<sup>64</sup> <https://www.bestcolleges.com/news/what-college-students-need-to-know-about-long-covid/>