



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES AND ARTS
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Dear Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students:

I wanted to make sure that you were aware of the accessibility of COVID vaccines in our area. There have been some recent changes. Below you will find some information and links. Much of this information can be found elsewhere as well (see attached email).

First, California has been in Phase 1A for a while, and now eligibility has been extended to those who meet the criteria under Phase 1B. Educators are now qualified to receive the vaccine, and this can include those who work on campus (e.g., staff), teach or otherwise have a position related to education (e.g., faculty and graduate students). See attached memo from GC Chair Hratchian and Interim Graduate Dean Kello. Also see this link for more information: <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/#California's-vaccination-plan>

Phase 1A

Healthcare workers
Long-term care residents

Phase 1B—Now vaccinating as supplies allow

Individuals 65 and older
Sector populations: Agriculture and food, education and childcare, emergency services

Second, because of changes in the California vaccine roll-out process, our campus will no longer provide vaccines on campus for those people seeking their first dose. We will, however, complete second doses for those who received the initial dose at UCM. For more complete information see: [COVID Response Center \(CRC\) | Campus Ready \(ucmerced.edu\)](#).

Third, as many of you may have heard, you can get vaccinated at some Walgreens and Urgent Care centers in Merced County. You will need to make an appointment and drop-ins are not encouraged. I have heard that you may need to remind these providers that UCM staff are qualified under 1B. These are the links for appointments:

<https://www.walgreens.com/>
<https://www.getwellurgentcares.com/>

I also understand that people may get spontaneous calls or offers for vaccination. When this will occur is hard to predict, as additional clinics start-up. Recently, there have been pop-up clinics throughout the county (e.g. in Hilmar and Gustine) and throughout the Central Valley, with added clinic sites (e.g. at Castle) beginning soon. To receive e-mail notifications when additional Merced County vaccine clinics become available, you can register at www.vaccinatemercedcounty.com or call 209-381-1180. You may also try calling 855-330-3763 (the number for HR solutions, with whom Merced County has contracted for vaccine distribution). Universities may be on the "school list" but you can indicate you are an educator eligible under tier 1B and ask if there are any appointments available in the area. If the person you are speaking to does not find any spots, you may try calling

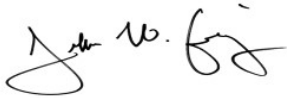
back. Also, I encourage folks to watch social media and spread the word if such opportunities arise in your community. Unfortunately, the roll-out is patchwork and not systematic, so it may require some trial and error to locate a vaccination appointment.

Finally, please be sure that your vaccine is recorded and that you can provide proof of vaccination should that be required later. Vaccines are not mandatory for all UCM employees at this time. However, you should continue to watch the Do Your Part website to determine what is needed to be on campus currently, the campus requirements for COVID testing, and future modifications of COVID-related guidance. See: [COVID Response Center \(CRC\) | Campus Ready \(ucmerced.edu\)](#).

I hope this is helpful. If you have questions that remain unanswered, please send them to Christine Howe at sshadean@ucmerced.edu. We will attempt to answer as quickly as we can.

Thank you and take care.

Jeff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Gilger". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a prominent "G".

Jeffrey Gilger, Dean
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University of California, Merced