

UC Berkeley COVID-19 Safe Campus Initiative (BCSCI)

Safe Workers Study Informational Sheet

The [Berkeley Covid19-Safe Campus Initiative \(BCSCI\)](#), led by researchers in the UC Berkeley School of Public Health with the permission of UC Berkeley campus leadership, is a three-part study aimed at developing and evaluating systems to support a safe return to campus for the UC Berkeley community in fall 2020. The study will simultaneously work with local public health systems to effectively prevent and control ongoing transmission of COVID-19 as the economy reopens.

The study will follow **three study cohorts** drawn from the UC Berkeley community (students; researchers/employees approved to return to campus over the summer; essential personnel required or approved to be on campus during the Shelter in Place) between June and August of 2020, complemented with environmental, and local and regional public health data. The **overall goals of the study** are to:

- estimate incidence of new infections among different campus populations as they return to campus;
- understand who remains at risk of infection, why, and how to mitigate this risk;
- develop and pilot novel systems to improve access to more frequent testing options for persons without COVID-19 symptoms, who may be at higher risk of becoming infected

The **Berkeley Safe Workers Study** will consist of a cohort of 2,000 Berkeley researchers (faculty, staff, postdocs and students) who may be eligible to return to campus over the summer, based on the kind of research they do, and what building they work in. Type of research and which buildings will be determined by “Phase 2 Research Recovery” led by the Vice Chancellor for Research. Potential study participants will be randomly selected from two groups of individuals in buildings that are identified for Phase 2 on-campus research: 1) those who have been identified by their PI or supervisors to return to work on campus regularly; and 2) those who will continue to work remotely, or who have been identified as needing to return to campus on an infrequent basis. Researchers/employees who were granted approval to return to campus during the Shelter in Place during March-May 2020 are not eligible for this study, though they may be eligible for a different study cohort (see below). The study participant selection process will be random (akin to a lottery) based on a de-identified list of researchers in each building. Only the randomly-selected set of prospective participants will receive an invitation to enroll in the study. Participation in the study is completely optional. The decision not to participate will not be reported to any third party.

Participation in the study will last two months and will involve the following activities:

- Testing for active COVID-19 infection (using a nasal swab, or if approved, saliva) by UC Berkeley University Health Services prior to any return to work;
- Daily and weekly surveys (completed online using a phone or computer) about symptoms (including temperature), possible exposures, and behaviors;
- Additional testing for active infection of any participants who develop symptoms or report an exposure;
- Additional testing for active infection of participants selected through random sampling for testing;
- Antibody testing at the beginning and the end of the study to supplement risk assessment;
- Optional download of a study app that will collect mobility and location data

Only persons who work in buildings that are designated for on-campus research over the summer during Phase 2 Research Recovery, and who are randomly selected, will be eligible to participate in this study. Students and essential on-campus personnel who do not work in one of these buildings may be eligible to participate in a companion study cohort ([Berkeley Safe Students](#), or [Berkeley Safe Essential Workers](#)). Potential study

participants will be contacted via email in mid-June. For more information on this study, visit the Berkeley Covid19-Safe Campus Initiative (BCSCI) website at <https://safecampus.covid.berkeley.edu/>.

Safe Workers Study - Frequently Asked Questions

-How does this research align with campus plans for resuming on-campus activity this summer?

The study team has been working closely with the campus leadership to ensure that study activities align with campus plans for return-to-work - particularly resumption of on-campus research activities. The goal of the study is to monitor any differences in incidence of COVID-19 infection among populations who return to campus vs stay remote, to provide critical data to inform campus plans for more widespread return to campus over the coming months.

-The study and the campus both ask me to report my daily health symptoms, using different systems. Do I have to do this twice?

We are working with campus to align our approaches. More information to follow.

-Are employees required to join the study in order to return to work on campus?

No. Study participation is completely voluntary and will not impact an employee's eligibility to return to work on campus.

-Are employees required to come back to work on campus if they participate in the study?

No. Study participants should come to campus or continue working remotely as determined by their PI/supervisor.

-Who approved this study of campus employees and students?

The BCSCI study was approved by UC Berkeley Chancellor, Dr. Carol Christ, with the concurrence of the Chancellor's Cabinet. The results of the study are designed to inform the campus' plans for resuming on-campus research, instructional and administrative activities on campus in the fall. The study protocol was approved by the UC Berkeley [Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects](#), study #2020-04-13238.

-Why wasn't I selected to participate in the study?

Selection of prospective study participants was based on the building where you normally work. Prospective study participants were randomly drawn from a de-identified list of employees and students who normally work in buildings selected for Phase 2 Research Recovery under the VC Research. If you were not selected, then either a) your building is not one of those selected for early 'reopening'; OR b) you were not one of those selected at random from the list of those who normally work in the specified building.

-Why was I selected to participate in the study?

Selection of prospective study participants was based on the building where you work. Prospective study participants were randomly drawn from a de-identified list of all employees and students who normally work in buildings selected for Phase 2 Research Recovery under the VC Research. If you were selected, then: a) your

building is one of those selected for early reopening; AND b) you were one of those selected at random from the list of those who normally work in the specified building.

-I am a student. Is there another study I may be eligible for?

Yes. The BCSCI is also enrolling students who reside in Alameda or Contra Costa Counties for the summer in the **Safe Students Study**. For more information, see the study [website](#), call/text **650-242-5916** or email safecampus@berkeley.edu.

-I was already approved to come to campus between March 16 and June 1. Is there another study I may be eligible for?

Yes. The BCSCI is also enrolling UC Berkeley employees who were required or approved to work on campus as 'essential personnel' in certain units/divisions, in the **Safe Essential Workers Study**. For more information, see the study [website](#), call/text **650-242-5916** or email safecampus@berkeley.edu.

-I received an invitation in the mail inviting me to participate in another UC Berkeley COVID-19 study. Is this the same study? Can I participate in both?

There are multiple studies underway at this time. If you participate in the BCSCI study, you are also welcome to participate in any other studies you are eligible for.