

THE U OF I SYSTEM COVID-19 RESPONSE:

SERVING STUDENTS, ILLINOIS & THE COUNTRY

The University of Illinois System is working to support our 89,000 students and 28,000 employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, while harnessing our technical expertise, medical resources and research capabilities to help steer Illinois and the country through the crisis:



SUPPORTING STUDENTS

- Launched [the Students FIRST COVID-19 Emergency Fund](#) to assist students who are facing increased need. The \$36 million fund includes federal CARES Act dollars, institutional and philanthropic contributions, and savings from temporary 10-percent salary reductions for senior U of I System leaders.
- Moved courses online/to distance learning.
- Helping students obtain access to technology and the internet by, for example, providing laptops and WiFi hotspot devices.
- Providing tele-counseling services and online career services, including virtual career fairs.
- Providing approximately \$49.5 million in refunds for room and board and fees.
- Continuing to pay all undergraduate employees, including federal work-study students, through the end of the spring semester whether or not they are able to work remotely.

SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES

- No staff furloughs or layoffs.
- Most staff are working remotely. Non-essential staff whose regular jobs cannot easily be performed remotely – e.g., certain facilities staff – are continuing to be paid through creative and/or alternative assignments to prevent loss of income.
- The University of Illinois Hospital was the [first hospital in the state](#) to offer enhanced compensation to nurses working during the pandemic.

FINDING SOLUTIONS

- The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is taking part in two leading-edge [clinical trials](#) of potential COVID-19 treatments.
- UI Health's Craniofacial Center is developing an [N95 mask prototype](#).
- Teams at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in collaboration with Carle Health, have:
 - developed and launched production of a [face shield](#) for health professionals;
 - produced a [prototype emergency ventilator](#) that could help ease national shortfalls -- Belkin International [announced plans](#) to produce at least 10,000 emergency ventilators based on the license obtained for the RapidVent;
 - designed an [alarm and sensor package](#) for emergency ventilators.
- Urbana's Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory is [fabricating and packaging hand sanitizer](#) at industrial scale.

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SHARING EXPERTISE

- The U of I System’s Discovery Partners Institute and Illinois Innovation Network have been asked by state public health authorities to assist in [expanding testing across Illinois](#).
- UIC is providing technical assistance to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).
- Urbana researchers are [providing epidemiological models](#) for the governor’s office, developed in collaboration with other institutions, to show how social distancing can slow the transmission of the virus and prevent a shortage of intensive-care beds in Illinois.
- At the request of the National Science Foundation, Urbana’s National Center for Supercomputing Applications is [partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to coordinate high-performance computer capacity across the country and fast-track the big data analysis that is needed to hasten new vaccines and treatments.
- The [Center for Online Learning, Research and Service](#) at the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) is using its expertise in distance learning to help Illinois colleges transition to remote learning and assist state agencies in providing online programming.

SERVING COMMUNITIES

- UI Health workers are on the front lines of the crisis, from testing and treating patients at its hospital and clinics around Chicago to helping lead efforts to [screen, test, and educate Chicago’s homeless population](#) about COVID-19.
- [University of Illinois Extension](#) has created over 900 pieces of digital content and programming (webinars, videos, web pages, social media and blogs, digital fact sheets) since mid-March, addressing urgent topics for families, businesses, farmers, and community leaders.
- The Child Development Laboratory (CDL) in Urbana is [caring for children of essential, critical personnel in the community](#) while

staying connected to its regular students through technology. CDL is also providing groceries to low-income CDL families through the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

- UIS is hosting a series of [small-business webinars](#) focused on the impact COVID-19 is having on the economy, what programs are available for aid, and how to apply.
- The Discovery Partners Institute and P33 are [launching a new initiative](#) called TechReady Illinois to help Illinois residents hurt by COVID-19 gain new digital skills at steeply discounted tuition rates.

