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From: Chanbishop [mailto:Chanbishop@CHANOFF.UCSF.EDU]  
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2003 3:57 PM  
To: UCSFSTAFF@ITSSRV1.UCSF.EDU  
Subject: Continued Vigilance at UCSF

"Continued Vigilance at UCSF"

Dear Colleagues:

The recent Homeland Security heightened alert status, looming likelihood of war in Iraq, and knowledge that many Bay Area institutions are high on the list of potential terrorist targets, require UCSF to redouble our emergency preparedness efforts.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, I convened a Steering Committee on Nuclear, Biological, Chemical and Cyber Terrorism, co-chaired by Dean and Vice Chancellor Haile Debas and Vice Chancellor Steve Barclay. I charged the committee to oversee an analysis and assessment of our campus' ability to respond to a broad range of potential threats and to institute new safeguards, response mechanisms, and educational efforts.

As a result of the recommendations put forth by this committee over the past year, UCSF has completed a variety of immediate risk-mitigation projects, conducted thoughtful risk assessments for improvements to further secure our campus, and strengthened overall emergency preparedness with regional partners within the city. These recommendations and efforts have all been made to improve UCSF's overall ability to respond to a wide range of emergency situations.

In the next few weeks, many of you will hear of, and be requested to participate in, emergency drills and other efforts to test and improve campus safety and security. I urge your full participation.

Let me provide you with an update in several key areas:

1) Susan Garritson has been appointed UCSF's new Bioterrorism Projects Coordinator. She reports to Ara Tahmassian, Associate Vice Chancellor, Research, who is responsible for managing UCSF's response to terrorism. Susan's primary responsibilities will be to oversee implementation of approved projects as well as provide strategic staff support as we continue our efforts toward development of regional partnerships with external agencies to strengthen and improve disaster preparedness at UCSF.

2) The new UCSF website on nuclear, biological, chemical and cyber terrorism, (<http://www.terrorisminfo.ucsf.edu>) provides a single portal to information for clinicians, researchers, staff, and students. The website consolidates information links about terrorism alerts as well as medical, infection control and operational response guidelines related to potential biological agents such as anthrax and smallpox. It also offers links to San Francisco city preparedness; research information from the UCSF Office of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) and Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT); emergency tips for the office; the UCSF Police Preparedness Program; volunteering; and training. This

website will serve as a prime way to communicate the impact of general threats and alerts to the UCSF community.

3) Security officers for the campus and the Medical Center are conducting emergency drills at all of our sites to build on already established mechanisms for rapid and comprehensive response to disasters. If a "shelter-in-place" situation is recommended, the emergency personnel will assist in implementing that as well. Emergency coordinators and staff assigned as department representatives will be your resources to implement evacuation training. A working group representing schools and administrative units is reviewing campus emergency plans and will be updating the templates for electronic submittal. Part of this review includes an update of designated safe assembly locations.

4) The campus and Medical Center are collaborating to establish coordinated emergency operations procedures that will be integrated with the San Francisco Department of Public Health to improve our regional emergency preparedness. In collaboration with the Department of Public Health, specific planning for providing smallpox vaccinations is underway. Vaccination of a small number of volunteer clinical staff will occur in late March.

5) The campus and Medical Center have undertaken projects to improve a number of security and safety practices related to cyber security, hazardous materials, and access control. Information and new procedures will be communicated to the UCSF community as these projects unfold.

This letter is not offered in response to any specific threat or alert notification received by UCSF, but to communicate some of the efforts underway which are critical components of planning and which strengthen our ability to respond in case of any emergency.

I ask for your cooperation to maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone at UCSF, including our patients, faculty, staff, students, and the community at-large.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Bishop, MD  
Chancellor