



March 19, 2020

Hi everyone,

As stewards of food safety information, we know the risks that we are associated with food-borne illnesses. The spread of coronavirus disease, COVID-19, is a new kind of challenge. **The health and safety of UC Master Food Preserver volunteers, staff and our extended community is our number one priority.** To the best of our knowledge, no volunteer with the UC Master Food Preserver Program has tested positive for the virus.

While the mission of our program is to extend research-based information, our value is in the excellence and passion of our volunteers. UC Master Food Preserver volunteers are strongly encouraged to prioritize their own health and wellness at this time.

As of March 16, 2020, the UC Master Food Preserver Program, UC ANR, and UC Cooperative Extension locations are closed.

Counties are to postpone, reschedule or offer online options for events through April 30, 2020. This directive includes all volunteer-led youth or adult programming, meetings or gatherings. Please contact your local program and Coordinator to find out updates and availability. The guidelines for your County or for a specific UC Campus must be followed if they are more restrictive than that of UC ANR. The goal of this decision is to support all UC ANR employees, volunteers, and our broader communities by reducing the risk of community spread through minimization of face-to-face interactions, reduction in commuting and travel, and an increase in social-distancing. The health and safety of UC Master Food Preserver volunteers, staff and our extended community is our number one priority.

Please communicate with your local program coordinator or advisor if you choose to adjust your volunteer involvement or activities as the situation evolves. We are pooling creative ideas involving technology for you all to collect hours while practicing social distancing. Please send them to your local coordinator and stay tuned!

The University of California is monitoring this developing situation very closely, staying in regular contact with federal agencies, health organizations, and other



experts. We have collected and linked resources below to help keep you informed.

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
[gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx
- County's Public Health Officer
cdph.ca.gov/Pages/LocalHealthServicesAndOffices.aspx
- UC ANR Environmental Health and Safety Coronavirus Updates
[edu/Programs/emergency/Current_Health_Alerts/](https://ucanr.edu/Programs/emergency/Current_Health_Alerts/)

Thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate through this challenging time together. We encourage you to stay in communication with your local program regarding locally relevant program information and guidance.

In health,

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