The University of Utah community has mobilized enormous efforts towards understanding the nature of COVID-19 and its impact on society.

- About 200 U investigators from nearly every discipline are leading 136 COVID-19-related projects to study the virus from all angles—from testing and vaccine trials to its impact on vulnerable communities and on rates of domestic violence.
- U of U Health is carrying out five clinical trials to test potential treatments for COVID-19.

The U has won more than $13 million in COVID-19-related funding from state, national, and industry sources.

The U’s Office of Vice President for Research and U of U Health’s Immunology, Inflammation and Infectious Disease Initiative have awarded 56 seed grants totaling $1.3 million to fund COVID-19 research.

University of Utah Health has been working to support, inform, and influence both state and national policy regarding the coronavirus pandemic. Leadership from the state’s only academic medical center is providing its renowned expertise and guidance for the community, state, and nation.

- **Michael L. Good, M.D.**, CEO of U of U Health, senior vice president for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, serves on Utah’s Public Health and Economic Emergency Commission, created in March 2020 by the Utah Legislature. He also chairs the commission’s Medical Advisory Subcommittee
- Good joined other area health system CEO’s in a regional meeting with **Eric Hargan**, deputy secretary of Health and Human Services
- **Brian E. Shiozawa, M.D.**, associate vice president for health policy, serves on the Lieutenant Governor’s Utah COVID-19 Community Task Force
• Thomas L. Miller, M.D., chief medical officer, is a member of the COVID-19 Chief Medical Officer Group convened by the Utah Hospital Association

• Russell G. Vinik, M.D., chief medical operations officer, serves on the state’s COVID-19 Crisis Standards of Care Task Force

• Peter T. Weir, M.D., executive medical director of population health, and Michelle G. Hofmann, M.D., MPH, serve on the state’s COVID-19 Long-Term Care Task Force

• Richard R. Orlandi, M.D., chief medical officer for ambulatory health and Andy Theurer, CPA, president of ARUP Laboratories, serve on the Utah Department of Health’s Testing Coordination Council

HERO Project—State-level testing

• The University of Utah and the State of Utah have completed Phase One of the Utah Health and Economic Recovery (HERO) project, a large-scale undertaking to test 10,000 Utahns to understand the proportion of COVID-19 in the population.

• Phase One tested 8,500 randomly selected Utahns from four counties for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and tested for infection.

• The results indicate that about 1% of Utahns have been infected—99% are still susceptible.

• Phase Two will expand testing to other counties with a focus on students and children to guide best practices for returning to school and monitor changes in infection rates.

• The HERO Project is a collaboration between the David Eccles School of Business, U of U Health, ARUP Laboratories, the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget, Utah Department of Health, and the Hope Core.

Testing vulnerable communities

• U of U Health, Utah Legislative Ethnic and Racial Minority Caucus, and the Utah Department of Health are working in partnership to provide COVID-19 care to underserved communities.

• U of U Wellness Bus and medical teams provide free COVID-19 testing, education, and health consultations.
Watching the wastewater

- The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the U, and other Utah universities are partnering to monitor human waste for the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- Utah DEQ is collecting samples from 42 treatment facilities, representing 80% of the state’s population.
- Gives a snapshot of the infection rates in those communities.

Training Contact Tracers

- The U’s Division of Public Health partnered with the Utah Department of Health to train and field more than 100 contact tracers for the ongoing pandemic response efforts

ARUP Laboratories tests the nation

- ARUP Laboratories, a nonprofit enterprise of the U, has been a leader in diagnostic COVID-19 testing throughout the pandemic.
- They worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to secure a stable supply chain of reagents, disposables, and swabs to meet testing demands.
- Developed a saliva test that’s just as effective as the swab test, but is easier to administer.
- The lab can run 10,000+ molecular and 30,000+ antibody tests per day and is partnering with U of U Health to test whether convalescent plasma can treat COVID-19.