

SNI Webinar Recap

Reframing the Pandemic Response

On April 13, 2022, SNI hosted the webinar, *Reframing the Pandemic Response: UC San Diego Health's Framework for Endemic Operating Procedures*. The webinar slides and recording are available [here](#).

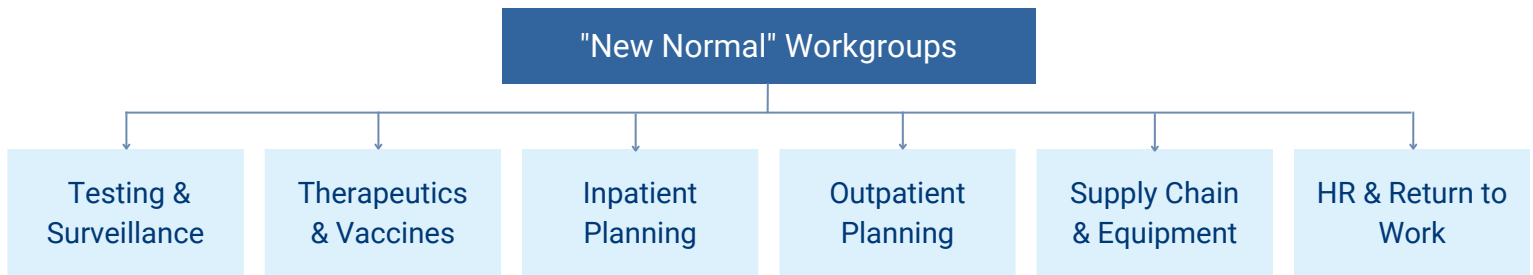
Key Takeaways: UCSD Health's Framework for Endemic COVID-19 Operating Procedures

Background

Motivated by the need to transition from a "perpetual state of emergency" to a proactive approach that recognizes COVID-19 as an endemic virus, UCSD Health designed a strategic framework that flexes health system operations based on three tiers of COVID-19 prevalence.

Strategic Planning Process

In February and March, UCSD Health convened "new normal" workgroups across six domains to develop a set of guidelines to steer health system operations.



Workgroup Recommendations

The workgroups developed guidelines across the six domains and three tiers of COVID-19 prevalence, including protocols on patient and staff testing, masking, remote work, telehealth, and staffing models.

	Low	Medium	High
Work environment	Hybrid & onsite work encouraged	Remote work encouraged	Remote work required where feasible
Meetings	In-person meetings allowed	Virtual meetings recommended	Virtual meetings whenever feasible
Masking in non-healthcare settings	Optional	Required	Required, KN95 recommended

Examples of guidelines outlined in the framework.

Project Launch and Communication

UCSD Health launched the "new normal" framework on March 21 and disseminated information through townhalls, daily huddles, their website, and other venues. Employees receive daily dashboard emails that report the current tier and corresponding operating protocols.

Promising Practice #1: Wastewater Surveillance

UCSD Health tracks COVID-19 presence in wastewater, which can identify surges 1-3 weeks in advance. The Governor's Office and the CDC have each announced intentions to scale up wastewater surveillance systems.

Promising Practice #2: Maintaining a Respectful Workplace

Throughout the initiative, UCSD Health leaders strongly emphasized the importance of maintaining a respectful workplace, including discouraging "mask shaming" of employees choosing to mask. The new framework has received an overwhelmingly positive response from staff.