



Oct. 20, 2020

Dear IGI FAST Participant,

To: IGI FAST Study Participants  
Subject: IGI FAST Program Transition  
and Request for Feedback

We are writing to you to announce that the IGI FAST testing study will be coming to an end on October 29<sup>th</sup>. We want to send our sincerest gratitude for your participation in this study. It's been an honor to serve you and we are grateful for the help in developing a new test that was able to bring regular asymptomatic testing to over 4,800 people on our campus.

When IGI FAST began, we had two goals: 1) bring regular, free, asymptomatic testing to the UC Berkeley campus where there was no such program, and 2) develop a test and collection methodology that would be easy, comfortable, sensitive, and would not require healthcare workers to collect the specimen, allowing the scale up of the number of people that could be tested per day. Since we began in June, we have provided over 11,000 tests for COVID-19 and successfully identified several asymptomatic positive cases that were isolated and connected with medical care, preventing further spread of COVID-19.

Saliva-based testing has proven to be a popular, easy sample to collect, and has allowed us to reduce the burden traditional testing has put on clinical systems. However, in the lab, we have observed mixed results. While our saliva test is now clinically validated and orderable with an analytical sensitivity on par with most commercial PCR tests, our swab-based test remains more sensitive, easier to work with in the lab, and is proving to be better for pooling strategies, an approach that will be needed to further scale up testing on campus.

With any community asymptomatic testing program, trade-offs between convenience and participation versus sensitivity and accuracy need to be continually reassessed. Today, the FAST kiosks are no longer the only asymptomatic testing option on campus. University Health Services (UHS) has established a COVID-19 community testing program that uses an easy, minimally-invasive, self-administered swab that detects virus from the front of the nostrils. This program is **now open to anyone affiliated with UC Berkeley at no cost**. Taking the lessons learned about saliva testing through IGI FAST, together with work done on nasal swabs, the trade-off now points toward consolidating asymptomatic testing programs on campus, in favor of self-swabs done through UHS.

While we are ending the FAST study, we will be continuing to explore and pilot alternative ways to administer the saliva test that could increase overall testing participation in limited populations, and potentially shift these trade-offs over time in specific settings.

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We encourage you to take advantage of UHS's asymptomatic COVID-19 testing program. Getting a test is easy. Simply go to [eTang.berkeley.edu](https://eTang.berkeley.edu), select "Schedule an appointment" in the "Appointments" tab and answer a few questions to get started. Asymptomatic testing sites are currently located at the Recreational Sports Facility and Memorial Stadium.

We cannot fully express how appreciative we are for your participation in this program and commitment to keeping UC Berkeley safe. **Please take 10 minutes to complete a [confidential survey](#)** to help us understand how this closure will affect you, what worked and what didn't with IGI FAST, and allow us to relay your needs and insights to campus as they continue to design improved approaches to keeping our campus safe. The survey will be open through October 30. Please copy-and-paste the link below if the hyperlink does not work.

[https://berkeley.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ex1NggCkV4I99aJ](https://berkeley.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ex1NggCkV4I99aJ)

We also invite you to schedule your last IGI FAST appointment at [igi-fast.berkeley.edu](https://igi-fast.berkeley.edu) for any of the remaining slots prior to the end of the month.

On behalf of the IGI SARS-CoV-2 Testing Consortium,  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Doudna". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Jennifer Doudna, PhD  
Founder, President & Chair of the IGI  
Governance Board

