

May 7, 2024

**AUDIENCE:** All Campus Employees Including Health Sciences

**INTRODUCING THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR CAMPUS**

Dear colleagues,

On September 30, 2023, Governor Newsom signed into law [Senate Bill 553 \(SB 553\)](#), which details new occupational safety measures for nearly all California employers, including UCI's main campus. This legislation mandates the development and implementation of a Workplace Violence Prevention Program by July 1, 2024, to help ensure the safety and well-being of all employees, students, and visitors.

This new law only applies to the UCI campus as UCI Health affiliated locations are already complying with previously enacted requirements for workplace violence prevention in healthcare ([8CCR3342](#)).

This initial communication highlights the following SB 553 key provisions that will impact the UCI campus:

**Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP):** Develop and implement WVPP specific to the hazards and corrective measures for each work area and operation. The plan builds upon [existing protocols](#) such as responding to emergencies, evacuation plans, post-incident response and investigation procedures, and more.

**Recording Violent Incidents:** Each incident must be recorded in a violent incident log, detailing information such as the date, time, location, type of violence, and consequences of the incident. The information in these logs will help track trends and identify areas for improvement.

**Employee Training:** Employees training will include recognizing and avoiding workplace violence, reporting incidents or concerns, and accessing support services. This mandatory training will need to be completed annually.

**Compliance with California Division of Occupational Health and Safety (Cal/OSHA):** In alignment with existing Cal/OSHA regulations, our university will fully comply with the occupational safety requirements outlined in SB 553. This commitment underscores UCI's dedication to safeguarding the well-being of our community.

We will keep you updated on the progress of implementing the Workplace Violence Prevention Program and provide additional information and resources as appropriate.

For more information about SB 553, please contact workgroup chairs [Bob Martin](#) or [Vanessa Flores](#).

Sincerely,

**Mary Lou D. Ortiz**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Vice Chancellor, Division of Finance & Administration

**Ramona Agrela**  
Chief Human Resources Officer & Vice Chancellor

**Diane K. O'Dowd**  
Vice Provost for Academic Personnel