UPTE solidarity strike on May 8-9

Why are we striking in solidarity with AFSCME’s service unit?
AFSCME will strike Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, May 7-9. UC refuses to negotiate the kind of contract AFSCME workers deserve, and all front-line workers need to stand with one another to make sure that none of us are left behind. We are fighting for the same issues – fair wages, a secure retirement, staffing levels, and other conditions that promote quality research, education, and patient care. Any unit winning a good contract will set a pattern that others will follow.

When is UPTE striking in solidarity? UPTE members will join AFSCME’s strike on TUESDAY, MAY 8 and WEDNESDAY, MAY 9. No UPTE members should report to work between 4 am Tuesday, May 8 and 4 am on Thursday, May 10, except essential health care personnel that UPTE will notify.

Why are we striking for 2 days when AFSCME is striking for 3 days? UPTE is concentrating our forces on the last 2 days of AFSCME’s strike, TUESDAY, MAY 8 and WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, to escalate pressure on UC. We are coordinating with AFSCME. They appreciate our support and understand that we will not be participating on Monday.

May I strike on Monday?
We did not notify the university that we would be striking on Monday, because we want to concentrate our action starting on Tuesday. You must report to work on Monday if you are scheduled to work. Please support AFSCME on your breaks and lunch hour.

Are we legally protected in a sympathy strike? Yes, the law protects you from any kind of retaliation for not working during a sympathy strike. UC will try to intimidate you and claim the strike is illegal. Our legal team will be working to ensure that patients are safe and our strike is entirely within the law, as they have in previous strikes.

Wouldn’t a strike hurt those whom we are dedicated to serving? UC’s proposals to AFSCME will only worsen chronically high workloads and understaffing, which harm patients, research, and students every day. A strike will pressure UC to resolve these issues - and UC can avoid a strike by making a proposal that would address them immediately. UPTE has provided UC notice 10 days before the strike so that UC hospitals can make contingency plans, including reducing patient census and negotiating to keep a small number of staff deemed essential on duty. We are creating a Patient Protection Task Force that will be available to respond to any unforeseen emergent staffing need. Should a major emergency occur, members will be directed to immediately return to work.

How should I respond if my supervisor asks me if I am going on strike, or if I am going to come to work during the strike? You don’t need to answer if you don’t want to. You should not sign anything from management about whether or not you plan to strike, and you should contact your UPTE rep right away if you have questions.
What should I do during a strike? Instead of going to work, join us on the picket line and encourage your coworkers to do the same. We will not block doors, stop students, patients, visitors, staff, etc., from entering buildings.

Does UPTE have strike benefits? UPTE has a strike fund and provides a benefit for strike participation of $60/day. You must be on the line for 4 hours.

Will I be fined if I cross the picket line? UPTE does not have a policy of fining members who cross picket lines. However, for a successful strike, we need you to participate!

Can management retaliate for participation in the strike? No, but they may try. That is against the law and we will protect you every step of the way. Any strike initiated by this union will be legal. Any retaliation by UC will be illegal and fought against.

I’m worried about the care of my patients. Should I still strike? UPTE has provided UC notice 10 days before the strike. UC has many contingency plans for strikes, including reducing patient census and negotiating to keep a small number of staff deemed essential on duty. During previous strikes, we have made sure that patients are safe. Our legal team will be working with PERB to ensure that patients are safe and that workers’ right to strike is protected.

Where will the strike take place? Picket lines will be set up at all UC campuses and medical centers. Main picket lines will be at the locations below. Check with your local for additional information, or visit upte.org for the latest.

Please join our AFSCME sisters and brothers at these locations:

**UCB**: 2495 Bancroft Way, Berkeley • **UCD**: Hutchinson Drive at La Rue Rd., Davis • **UCD Med Center**: 2315 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento • **UCI**: 1063 W. Peltason Dr., Irvine • **UCI Med Center**: 101 The City Drive S, Orange • **UCLA**: 308 Westwood Plaza (Ackerman Union/Bruin Bear), Los Angeles • **UCLA Ronald Reagan Med Center**: 757 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles • **UCLA Santa Monica Hospital**: 1250 16th St., Santa Monica • **UCM**: 2997 E. Bellevue Rd., Merced • **UCR**: 900 University Ave., Riverside • **UCSB**: 522 University Rd. @ Storke Tower, Santa Barbara • **UCSC**: 1156 High St, Santa Cruz • **UCSD**: 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla • **UCSD Hillcrest Med Center**: 200 W. Arbor Dr., San Diego • **UCSD La Jolla Med Center**: 9300 Campus Point Dr, La Jolla • **UCSF Medical Center Parnassus**: 505 Parnassus Ave., San Francisco • **UCSF Medical Center Mission Bay**, 1825 4th St., San Francisco