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2020-02-04 A Message from Chancellor Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

A Message from Chancellor Roth

To the UNMHSC Community:

Due to the rapidly evolving situation regarding the outbreak of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), HSC leadership is providing the following guidance.

There are two aspects of our guidance. First, due to the travel restrictions placed by the US government, any UNMHSC faculty, staff, resident, or student with travel plans to China should suspend their travel plans at this time. Please consult with your Department Chair/Dean and our Office of International Exchange (cbeato@salud.unm.edu) as to rescheduling your travel plans. This travel suspension is anticipated to remain in place for the next few weeks.

If you have traveled to China, including Wuhan, or have been in close contact with a recent traveler to Wuhan, and you develop respiratory symptoms or a fever within 14 days of returning to the U.S., please immediately contact the [student health](#) or [occupational health office](#) for a telephone consultation **before visiting a UNMHSC affiliated clinic or emergency department.**

The reason: Transmission modes for this virus are not yet well understood, but there is some evidence of human-to-human transmission. To be cautious, we would like to speak with returning travelers who are symptomatic so we can appropriately arrange their safe evaluation and treatment, while minimizing the risk of exposing other people to the virus. There is much more to learn about 2019-nCoV, including how it spreads and the severity of the associated illness. Investigations are ongoing, and early recognition of novel coronavirus is critical to contain its spread.

While the Center for Disease Control and Prevention considers this a public health emergency, based on current information the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general public in the United States is thought to be low at this time. However, the number of flu, respiratory syncytial virus, and other respiratory viral infection cases remains high in the U.S. Please stay home if you are sick, and remain there for 24 hours after a fever. [Visit this link for a list of FAQs.](#)

We greatly appreciate each of you taking the time to review this important preparedness and response plan. Following this guidance is the right thing to do as a member of our institution deeply committed to health care and public health.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter being a large, stylized 'P'.

Paul