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### 2020-05-14 A Message from Chancellor Roth

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# HEALTH SCIENCES

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## OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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## A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

We learned yesterday that for most of New Mexico, retailers and houses of worship may now reopen on a limited basis, according to the latest modification of the state's emergency public health order.

And there is a real possibility that restrictions will be further loosened in coming weeks if we continue to see reductions in the rate of new COVID-19 infections.

This is surely welcome news for everyone who is chafing to get out of the house after two months of virtual confinement. But as Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, Health Secretary Kathy Kunkel and Human Services Secretary David Scrase made clear at their news conference, further steps toward reopening the state depend heavily on how we conduct ourselves.

The governor's stay-at-home order remains in effect until May 31, along with the advice to limit travel and maintain social distancing. And there is now a requirement that everyone wear a mask while in public spaces. These measures, along with increased testing, have made New Mexico something of a success story among states in its COVID-19 response, as [The New York Times](#) recently reported.

The governor has made it clear, however, that these public health orders are only effective if we comply with them. And she reminds us that we each have an important role to play in protecting the most vulnerable members of our community.

Of course, everyone wants to return to work and resume their familiar routines. Many people are suffering financially, and that is causing tremendous worry and distress. But we must be patient and wait just a bit longer, until the science shows that we can reopen safely.

I encourage you to continue following these best practices, limiting travel outside your home, maintaining social distance when you are around others and doing whatever is necessary to limit the spread of the virus. If we all do our part now, things will get back to a new normal sooner, rather than later.

Executive Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr. Richard Larson, sent out a message about research operations during this time. If you have not [read it you can here](#). We continue to work on return to full operations plans for all of HSC and UNM.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul B. Roth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Paul B. Roth, MD, MS  
Chancellor for Health Sciences  
CEO, UNM Health System  
Dean, UNM School of Medicine

Please visit the [New Mexico Department of Health website](#) for the latest COVID-19 updates.