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2020-03-18 A Message from Chancellor Roth (1)

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HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

As of this morning, 28 New Mexicans have tested positive for the coronavirus, and more than 2,300 tests have been administered statewide. Many of you may know the Governor just held a press conference announcing the first case of community acquired COVID-19. I want to stress again the importance of social distancing.

The Governor has now closed all malls, movie theaters, and gyms. She also has ordered all restaurants to move to take-out or delivery only.

We are doing our part to stop the spread and I hope those of you who are now working from home are settling in to your new routine. Here are the latest updates from throughout the Health Sciences Center:

- I have decided to follow the best practices of medical schools across the country and cancel clinical clerkships for our students in the School of Medicine, so as not to unnecessarily expose them to risk of infection. This change will take effect by the end of today. Students will also receive messaging on how we will continue to get them the experiences they need for their studies. College of Nursing has notified their students about changes. [Find this information here](#). College of Pharmacy has also notified their students of changes and you can [find those details here](#). The College of Population Health students have also been notified of how classes are changing but do not have rotations to cancel.
- I want to clarify that our tiered approach to having non-clinical staff work from home does not apply to UNM Hospitals, Sandoval Regional Medical Center or the UNM Medical Group. They are each working on their own plans and will be communicating them separately. For those reporting for duty at in the clinical entities, we are studying ways to enhance on-the-job social distancing, possibly including alternative work locations or workspaces. We are also developing plans for working from home that

meet the technical requirements for remote access. I want to thank all of our providers who are on the front lines of this pandemic.

- President Garnett S. Stokes has approved an optional payment to partially reimburse Tier 1 and Tier 2 faculty and staff who are using their personal devices, such as cell phones and home internet, while working from home. Deans, directors, department heads and supervisors may authorize a \$40 payment for four-week periods, retroactive to the employee's first day working offsite. Details on how to apply for the reimbursement may be found on the [UNM Human Resources website](#).

In these turbulent times, it can be difficult to focus while trying to assimilate so much confusing and disturbing information. Please be assured we want to do everything we can to support you, and know that I deeply appreciate your work to help us fulfill our mission.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul B. Roth".

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