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2020-03-23 A Message from Chancellor Roth

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

We are continuing our planning for managing the COVID-19 outbreak. The New Mexico Department of Health reports that 65 New Mexicans have tested positive for the novel coronavirus and nearly 5,400 tests have been administered statewide.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham is going to speak at 3pm today and we are expecting her to take further action to protect New Mexicans.

We have all seen disturbing reports of how the pandemic has driven some people to hoard food and supplies. In my experience, though, crises like this one tend to bring out the best in humanity. I'm so heartened by instances of generosity and selflessness as people at the Health Sciences Center – and in the community at large – step forward to care for one another.

- Generous benefactors in the community have been paying local restaurants to deliver, or restaurants donating food to our providers and staff at UNM Hospital. This kindness provides encouragement and recognition to our frontline health care workers at a time when they're putting their own health and well-being at risk. Michelle Tatlock, director

of UNMH Pastoral Services is coordinating these donations. We are also working with the UNM Foundation to assist with any monetary donations.

- Dr. Elizabeth Lawrence, who heads the Office of Professional Well-Being in the School of Medicine, has compiled a list of online resources for HSC providers and their loved ones in a time of heightened concern. These include fitness, yoga and meditation instruction – [important tools for managing stress and anxiety.](#)
- Although many of our HSC students have been pulled from their clinical rotations, several are volunteering to help wherever they can. Some are even providing child care for our health care providers, relieving one of the greatest concerns for parents, especially those with young children. If you are working in a clinical environment and need assistance with child care, please contact Jessica Kelly in my office at jeskelly@salud.unm.edu.
- Many of my recent messages have focused on UNM Hospital, but I want to make a point of recognizing the faculty and staff at UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center and the UNM Medical Group for their tremendous work. Their emergency operations centers have been crafting sophisticated contingency plans to ensure that operations will continue without interruption. SRMC has also instituted a no-visitor policy that mirrors UNMH's policy. These restrictions are to help avoid the spread of COVID-19.
- Finally, we have openings for advanced practice providers in the UNM Health System. If you know any APPs from other health care

organizations who have been furloughed due to the outbreak, please ask them to consider applying [here](#).

- There have been several questions about research and laboratory guidance during this time. [You can find resources on the changes to our research areas and laboratories here.](#)

As I have said on many occasions, the women and men who work at the UNM Health Sciences Center have always shared a powerful motivation to serve their community. Now, when the need is greater than ever, you have redoubled your commitment – and it shows.

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