

University of New Mexico

## UNM Digital Repository

---

HSC Messages from the Chancellor

HSC Marketing & Communications

---

Spring 4-1-2020

### 2020-04-01 A Message from Chancellor Roth

Paul B. Roth

chancellor-roth@salud.unm.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hsc\\_chancellor](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hsc_chancellor)



Part of the [Health and Medical Administration Commons](#), and the [Public Health Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Roth, Paul B.. "2020-04-01 A Message from Chancellor Roth." (2020). [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hsc\\_chancellor/35](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hsc_chancellor/35)

This Brief is brought to you for free and open access by the HSC Marketing & Communications at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in HSC Messages from the Chancellor by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu), [lsloane@salud.unm.edu](mailto:lsloane@salud.unm.edu), [sarahrk@unm.edu](mailto:sarahrk@unm.edu).



[View this email in your browser](#)

## A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

In New Mexico, **363** people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, more than **14,000** tests have been administered statewide, and six patients have died. The latest updates may be found on the [New Mexico Department of Health website](#).

News that up to a quarter million Americans might die from the novel coronavirus – even with the mitigation efforts now in place – underscores the need to maintain social distancing as a core strategy for slowing the spread of the virus. **Stay at home and if it is absolutely critical to leave then practice social distancing.**

The governor also indicated that New Mexico is a leader in the number of COVID-19 tests performed per capita and announced plans to revised testing criteria expand access to testing across the state **to include asymptomatic people but who have been in contact with others who were positive for COVID-19.**

Yesterday's briefing by **Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham** and state health officials did contain a sliver of good news: the “doubling rate” at which the disease has

spreading has slowed significantly in New Mexico, due to early implementation of the social distancing strategy. This will buy time for our frontline health care workers providing care to those who fall seriously ill.

The governor also indicated that New Mexico is a leader in the number of COVID-19 tests performed per capita and announced plans to revised testing criteria expand access to testing across the state.

Still, we know that difficult days and weeks lie ahead, so I'm especially moved by your efforts to help one another get through this. **Marci Laurel**, a speech language pathologist wanted to recognize four of her colleagues – **Marybeth Graham**, **Seema Jacob**, **Michele Iemolo** and **Kristen Red Horse** – for providing daily wellness and mindfulness activities at the Center for Development and Disability. You have my thanks.

This evening, I will join a live-streamed medical panel hosted by the **Albuquerque Journal**. The panel also includes **Dr. David Scrase**, secretary of the New Mexico Human Services Department, **Dale Maxwell**, president and CEO of Presbyterian Healthcare Services, and **Ron Stern**, president and CEO of Lovelace Health System.

We will be available to answer questions submitted by readers. The panel will run from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. You can connect via the Albuquerque Journal [website](#). We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,



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