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### 2020-04-03 A Message from Chancellor Roth

Paul B. 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:

As of this afternoon, **495** New Mexicans have tested positive for the novel coronavirus and **10** patients have died. Visit the [New Mexico Department of Health website](#) for the latest updates.

We have also learned that 18 residents of an Albuquerque nursing home have been diagnosed with the COVID-19 infection – as have several employees. Once again, this highlights the urgent need to meticulously practice social distancing in order to prevent the spread of the virus and protect the most vulnerable people in our community.

These new numbers are a reminder to us here at the Health Sciences Center that we must brace for an impending surge in cases in upcoming weeks. Please know that at every level, we are spending every hour of every day to adequately prepare for this eventuality. I implore you to stay hunkered down and stay safe.

**President Stokes** and the UNM Human Resources team have notified us that the University will continue its period of limited operations through April 30. Many of you have questions about how this might affect your job status. Please reference the [attached Limited Operations Guidelines and Measures](#) document for details.

Our physicians, nurses and other frontline health care workers at UNM Hospital are shouldering a tremendous burden in this crisis. They encounter great personal risk while spending long hours away from their loved ones in order to care for patients. Please in your own way, let's all acknowledge their strong commitment to all of us.

So I'm pleased to announce that the **University of New Mexico Foundation** has established the [UNMH Employee Crisis Relief Fund](#) to help with additional expenses, such as food and lodging that may be

incurred. The foundation has also created the [Health Sciences Student Emergency Relief Fund](#) to help our students deal with unprecedented disruptions to their academic journeys as they transition to online learning, experience significant changes in their employment and make unexpected moves home or to other accommodations.

Contributing to these funds is an important way to help for those of us who are in a position to do so. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Have a nice weekend, stay safe.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul B. Roth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "R".

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