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### 2020-04-14 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:

Over the past few weeks I've prefaced these daily messages with an update on the growing number of COVID-19 cases diagnosed in New Mexico – and their impact on our community. I know these daily reminders could be causing you distress, so going forward I will periodically speak to trends but not list daily numbers. I also intend to accentuate the positive wherever possible, while continuing to share important developments around the Health Sciences Center.

This has been a period of difficult adjustments for those who are working from home. Trying to juggle your work duties with child care responsibilities or the need to provide support for other family members can be stressful. I fully understand what you're experiencing (I'm working from home, too), and I appreciate the importance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance, especially in unsettled times such as these. Please take care of yourselves. The sacrifices you are making to get the job done are deeply appreciated, but your health and well-being are my foremost concern.

Many of faculty, staff and students have expressed frustration at not being able to do more at a time when our health care providers are putting everything on the line to care for their patients. Mary Pat Couig, PhD, MPH, RN, associate professor in the College of Nursing, is helping to pair volunteers from across the Health Sciences Center with opportunities to help.

Mary Pat reports that volunteers are providing child care, getting groceries, running errands, helping with phone triage and – in the case of faculty – providing clinical care or helping to staff the Westside Emergency Housing Center health clinic. Please fill out the [HSC COVID Volunteer form](#) if you would like to participate.

If you are still working on campus, please remember to request COVID-19 cleaning of your work area if it has been visited or occupied by someone with a positive test for the infection. Inform your supervisor (while remaining HIPAA, ADA and FERPA compliant) and inform the appropriate HSC contact [listed here](#).

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge Stephen Hernandez, PhD, RN, associate professor in the College of Nursing, who as a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve has been activated to work at the forefront of the COVID-19 response in New York City's Lincoln Hospital. His service is an inspiration for us all.

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

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