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2020-04-24 A Message from Chancellor Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

We have corrected that some residents are working with COVID positive patients. We apologize for this mistake.

Dear Colleagues:

Given the more recent public discussions around our PPE supplies, I want to assure all of you that we are placing the safety of our staff, faculty and students above all else. We have already removed students from the clinical venue. We have residents caring for COVID-19 patients but we have minimized unnecessary exposure and implemented specific precautions for their protection. We have also developed best practices with regard to the training in the use of PPE and its conservation, making sure that we do not compromise our safety priority. We have in place a multidisciplinary PPE Committee led by School of Medicine physician leaders that regularly reviews the latest recommendations and best practices that establishes our protocols.

Let me be perfectly clear. We have sufficient PPE to meet the requirements of the protocols developed by the PPE Committee. To make this abundantly transparent, the UNM Health System developed a daily dashboard that represents the levels on hand at any point in time. That green, yellow, red system is sent out in the morning communications to clinical employees. Green is greater than 10 days on hand at the current burn rate. Yellow is 5-10 days and red is less than 5 days. We have had a few items, like bouffant caps, in the yellow but for the most part we have maintained a mostly green status.

I'm especially grateful, meanwhile, to the team of scientists and clinicians who devised an effective [decontamination process](#) to sterilize masks and other gear for reuse, which is enabling us to extend our PPE supplies.

I want you to know that each employee's opinion is valued, and that as an institution of higher learning, we encourage each employee's right to express his or her opinion. All we expect is when any of us make these opinions in a public venue that we make it clear that we are speaking as individuals and not on behalf of the institution.

I personally welcome your observations and suggestions for how we might improve any aspect of our operations. In my experience we are more likely to achieve better solutions when we all put our heads together.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul B. Roth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

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.