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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

It has been just seven weeks since the first presumptive cases of the COVID-19 virus were reported in New Mexico. For most of us, I imagine it feels like a lifetime ago.

The profound disruption to our daily routines, both for those required to work from home and those deemed essential who are reporting to our hospitals to care for patients, naturally raises questions about when – or whether – we will ever return to normal.

Although we have seen fewer cases in New Mexico than originally projected, there is a significant likelihood that infections will surge again next fall and winter. The massive amount of planning we have done will be put to good use then, but it also means we can't let our guard down.

We also know that the economic fallout from the pandemic is endangering livelihoods, wreaking financial havoc and causing tremendous apprehension about what comes next. The bottom line is that this virus is likely to remain an unpredictable presence in our lives for the foreseeable future.

Given these realities, our plans for resuming UNM Health System operations will have to consider many variables.

I talked about some of the work that has been happening during the Chancellor's Chat yesterday. If you weren't able to join, we have a [recording of the chat](#) that you may play at your convenience. If you have questions we didn't answer or feedback on the event that you want to share, please email me at Chancellor-Roth@salud.unm.edu.

Our next Chancellor's Chat is set for **next Thursday, May 6 at noon**. We will send out a Zoom link as we get closer to the event.

While we do not yet know what our work environments will be like, we are working on how we manage patient interactions and continue minimizing the risk of exposing them to infection. Significantly, we still don't have a date for bringing all clinical, educational or research missions back online.

That said, I'm confident that the teams we have working on this problem will map out a comprehensive and workable plan to help us move forward. We are working closely with main campus on how we bring staff back to work, restart research labs, address large lecture halls and environments, you name it. It's not as simple as just returning to our offices or classrooms. I am so grateful for the thoughtful considerations that are being made and I have full confidence in these teams to ensure the safety of our employees, students and communities.

Finally, I wanted to share today's update on the number of inpatient COVID cases we are seeing at UNM Hospital and UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center:

UNMH Adults

# of Positive COVID Inpatients	40
# of Positive COVID Vents	24

UNMH Pediatric

# of Positive COVID Inpatients	1
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SRMC

# of Positive COVID Inpatients	8
# of Positive COVID Vents	4

Warm regards,



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.