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### 2020-05-12 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:

President Stokes has decided to extend the University's limited operations until June 1, meaning most of our faculty and staff will continue to work off campus. As she indicated in yesterday's message to the UNM community, we are evaluating a phased return to campus that adheres to the best expert recommendations for how to ensure the safety of our community.

For those of you working offsite, I deeply appreciate the incredible efforts you have made to continue performing your duties at such a high level, in many cases while lacking critical tools. This pandemic has given birth to some ingenious adaptations to enable us to continue our work. Your creativity is amazing, and your persistence and professionalism are an inspiration.

I'd like to call your attention to [this story highlighting](#) the work of biomedical engineer Christina Salas, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation, who has been leading the University's efforts to use 3-D printing technology to create face shields and masks for hospital personnel treating COVID-19 patients.

She was first approached by Laura Kief Shaffer, RN, a flight nurse who formerly worked at UNM Hospital, to find a way to alleviate the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers. They launched a collaboration, aided by faculty, students, nurses and others, that has led to the delivery of thousands of pieces of protective gear in the past month.

Grassroots efforts like these – which are not part of anyone's job description – speak to the best in human nature. As I have seen firsthand in the course of responding to natural disasters

around the world, when the chips are down, our natural instinct is to help one another, to find ways to alleviate suffering and comfort the afflicted. And nowhere is that more evident than at the Health Sciences Center, where we devote ourselves each day to our core mission of serving others.

These examples give me hope that whatever lies ahead, we will be OK.

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.