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### 2020-05-22 A Message from Chancellor Roth

Paul B. Roth

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## A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

On Monday, we will observe Memorial Day, which commemorates those Americans who have died in military service – and traditionally serves as the unofficial kickoff to the summer. I am so grateful for all who have served our country, and especially thankful and reverent of those who gave their lives doing so.

Memorial day often kicks off familiar summer pastimes, like picnics, visits to the pool and attending baseball games, that could be affected this year by the continued social distancing measures required to limit the COVID-19 outbreak in New Mexico, so we will all need to be flexible in adapting to these new realities.

I do hope you will take time this weekend to get outside, enjoy some fresh air and sunshine and get a little exercise. These are great antidotes to the restlessness you might be experiencing after staying home for two months or more.

I'd like to acknowledge the great work being done by Van Roper, PhD, RN, associate clinical professor in the College of Nursing, who has been working with Bernalillo-based El Pueblo Health Services to identify the best telehealth options for meeting patient needs during the COVID crisis.

Van, who also practices one day each week at the clinic, helped them acquire Zoom for Healthcare, a HIPAA-compliant platform that enables telehealth consultations without recording any patient-specific data. When Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham issued the statewide stay-at-home order on March 16, the clinic's new protocols were ready to implement the next day.

He also recently received a grant from the UNM Clinical & Translational Science Center for a pilot project exploring remote patient monitoring to expand the effectiveness of the telehealth model.

Other College of Nursing faculty also play key roles at the Bernalillo clinic. Felina Ortiz, CNM, and Rachel Marzec, PMHNP, see patients regularly, while Jan Martin, DNP, helps with quality improvement policies.

The dedication of these faculty members during this pandemic speaks to the impact we are having on health care across New Mexico and is a tribute to their commitment to serving the community.

I hope you enjoy the long holiday weekend.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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.