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### 2020-05-26 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:

Starting next week we will initiate the first phase of our return to full operations in general administrative, faculty and staff offices and business areas at the Health Sciences Center.

As outlined in [last Friday's communique](#), the majority of staff will continue to telecommute for the time being, while those who are returning to the workplace will be required to wear cloth masks in common areas and observe social distancing protocols.

We will also make use of this time to modify our work spaces as needed to ensure a safe environment when more of us return to campus. Please know the health and well-being of our workforce will be our primary concern as we consider how and when to resume various aspects of our operations.

Meanwhile, our hospitals and clinics are starting to ramp up their services following a lengthy hiatus. At the same time, many of the COVID-specific protocols we implemented on an emergency basis are starting to scale back as we find our way to a new operational baseline.

There's more good news to share:

- Christopher "Kit" Anstine, MD, a 2017 School of Medicine graduate who pursued his internal medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., has been honored with Mayo's Joseph D. Messler, MD, Outstanding Achievement Award in General Internal Medicine. The award is based on outstanding clinical performance during residency, scholarly activity and outstanding humanitarian qualities. Dr. Anstine will join the Mayo Clinic's general internal medicine staff in July.

- Earlier this month, Evelyn Rising, our Hobbs-based Health Extension Regional Officer, [arranged for two days of free COVID-19 testing with special outreach](#) to African Americans in the community, to ensure they have access to this important health resource. She worked with Nor-Lea Hospital, the New Mexico Department of Health and local officials to organize the event, which saw 179 Lea County residents undergo testing. Best of all, thanks to the event's success, a testing event focused on underrepresented and vulnerable community members has already occurred in Albuquerque, and another community-wide event will be held in Hobbs on June 4.

These are welcome reminders of how our learners, staff and faculty contribute to the communities we serve.

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.