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2020-06-08 A Message from Chancellor Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

Most non-clinical Health Sciences Center faculty and staff will continue to work from home for the time being as we follow best practices for limiting the spread of the novel coronavirus while working on returning to full operations.

A few months ago, the notion that we might be able to do our jobs without daily face-to-face interactions with our coworkers might have seemed bizarre, but for many of us it has now become the norm. Still, we shouldn't lose sight of why we are operating this way: it works.

A [new study](#) from the University of California, Berkeley, estimates that the implementation of stay-at-home orders and social distancing measures prevented 60 million infections in the U.S. alone. It stands to reason that if we keep our distance from one another, wear masks when we are in public and practice good hygiene, the virus will have fewer opportunities to replicate – and fewer people will get sick.

Meanwhile, directives from state health officials continue to prohibit gatherings of large groups of people, and these will guide decisions about when and how to bring students back to campus. We can all expect to continue modifying our behavior to limit the spread of disease for some time to come.

Starting this week, the HSC Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion will host a series of Dialogue Circles for faculty, residents/fellows, students and staff to provide a safe space for meaningful conversations about race.

[These online gatherings](#) will be limited to 30 people per session. Please RSVP to Steven Romero (stjromero@salud.unm.edu) and indicate which session you would like to attend.

We continue The Well-Being Connection webinar series this week with “Safe Space: Talking to Our Kids About Civil Unrest and COVID,” presented by Tara Gill, PhD, from the Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, and Lucia Darlach, PhD, from UNM Hospital.

The webinar will be conducted live on Wednesday, June 10, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. You can register [here](#).

A reminder that we are being thoughtful regarding the vast amount of communications and emails we all are getting right now. As such we will be only sending out messages from me on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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.