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Paul B. Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

If you've been following the news, you know that the New Mexico Legislature convened its special session yesterday in Santa Fe to consider ways of mitigating a projected \$2 billion shortfall in the state budget due to economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The solutions to this problem are bound to have an effect on the University and the Health Sciences Center, as we receive significant funding from the state for employee salaries and other expenses.

We won't know the full extent of the impact on the University's budget until after the session concludes, but we have a great team working to ensure our priorities are represented.

In the meantime, we will continue to move forward with our key projects, including the new hospital tower, and we'll keep you apprised of additional developments coming from the Roundhouse.

I'm pleased that we are launching the first phase of construction on the new hospital tower. The project will start with relocating streets and utilities along Yale Boulevard and Camino del Salud to make way for construction of the new parking garage.

In addition, starting next week, Lot 4 will be closed and K Lot will be dedicated to only patient parking. When it is completed, the new parking garage will have much greater parking capacity than the current garage, which will eventually be demolished to make way for the new hospital tower. We expect the tower to be open to patients in October 2024.

Your patience in adapting to changes in parking or traffic patterns during this very complex construction project will be greatly appreciated. We will be sending out designated emails on

this project and any traffic pattern changes as well as standing up external websites with information.

A reminder that the novel coronavirus is still with us.

As of this week, more than 10,000 New Mexicans have tested positive and more than 450 have died. The toll taken in serious illness and lives lost is nothing short of a tragedy, but New Mexico is doing better in many respects than our neighbors in Texas and Arizona, who have seen sizable increases in new cases.

I want to recognize and thank Christophe Lambert, PhD, from the Center for Global Health who has overseen the COVID-19 Intelligence Briefings. These email briefings gathered articles, publications and information from local, national and international sources to give us a snapshot of how the COVID-19 virus was spreading, breakthroughs being made and important things to consider.

This work was invaluable to our leadership and was used by Secretary Dr. David Scrase from the Human Services Department.

This work was also time consuming and it is time to thank Dr. Lambert and let him return to his other full-time job and research. With that being said, we would like to continue these briefings and would ask that anyone willing to volunteer to take them over contact me using Chancellor-Roth@salud.unm.edu.

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.