

University of New Mexico

UNM Digital Repository

HSC Messages from the Chancellor

HSC Marketing & Communications

Summer 7-6-2020

2020-07-06 A Message from Chancellor Roth

Paul B. Roth

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hsc_chancellor



Part of the [Health and Medical Administration Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Roth, Paul B.. "2020-07-06 A Message from Chancellor Roth." (2020). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hsc_chancellor/70

This Brief is brought to you for free and open access by the HSC Marketing & Communications at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in HSC Messages from the Chancellor by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu, lsloane@salud.unm.edu, sarahrk@unm.edu.



[View this email in your browser](#)

A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you had an enjoyable – and safe – Independence Day holiday. I want to thank everyone who heeded the advice to wear masks, maintain physical distance and not congregate in large groups.

It has been nearly four months since the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in New Mexico. Since then, we have seen 13,256 confirmed cases and, tragically, 513 deaths.

As sobering as these numbers are, our state has done a relatively good job of controlling the spread of the virus, though we have seen a concerning uptick in the past couple of weeks, including a 1.36 reproduction rate for central New Mexico. The picture is far worse in many parts of the U.S., where 250,000 new cases were reported in just the first five days of this month.

This troubling surge in infections is forcing many states, including our own, to pause or reverse their plans to reopen, which in turn threatens more economic disruption. And as the sheer number of new cases increases in coming weeks, hospitals around the country will surely see another wave of seriously ill patients that threatens their capacity to provide care.

And while we rightly focus on the 130,000 American lives that have already been lost to the disease, we must not overlook the fact that many people who survive the infection have been left with lingering aftereffects, including severe lung and neurological damage, impaired kidney function and other problems.

While there are promising reports of effective vaccines – and even potential therapies – to prevent or treat the COVID-19 infection, the reality is that it will still be many months before these can be put into clinical practice. In the meantime, each of us must continue to do our part to limit the spread of this disease. Our future truly depends on it.

As mentioned previously, I will be retiring as Chancellor for Health Sciences, effective July 31. For the rest of the month you'll be receiving weekly joint messages from me and Dr. Mike Richards, who will serve as interim Executive Vice President for Health Sciences until a permanent replacement is selected.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul B. Roth".

Paul B. Roth, MD, MS
Chancellor for Health Sciences