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2020-07-20 A Message from Chancellor Roth

Paul B. Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

The number of people infected with the novel coronavirus continues to climb – and with it the burden of sickness and death. To date, some 17,000 New Mexicans have tested positive for COVID-19, and nearly 600 have died.

These sobering numbers reflect the larger tragedy that has been unfolding across the country, as too many people fail to follow the simple measures that have been proven to reduce the risk of catching or transmitting the infection. More than 140,000 Americans have died since the pandemic arrived in the U.S. This is simply unconscionable.

At the Health Sciences Center we have been very firm about this from the start, but to be as clear as possible, I will reiterate our expectations:

- Each person who comes to campus or works in one of our hospitals or clinics is expected to wear a face mask at all times.
- Everyone is expected to maintain physical distancing at all times when it does not interfere with patient care.
- Faculty, staff and students must not congregate or eat in groups and maintain 6 feet of physical distance.

We understand that these are incredibly trying times and that maintaining physical distance from our colleagues can be challenging and lead to feelings of isolation. However, these are requirements, not recommendations. We urge you to find safe ways to connect. Please be responsible and do your part to keep yourself and others safe.

UNM Hospital is offering COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic individuals, but they are available by appointment only, with a limit of 100 per day. Appointments may be made no more than 72 hours in advance for people age 2 or older. They are available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7-11 a.m.

The testing location is located near the North Entrance of the Barbara & Bill Richardson Pavilion. Please call 505-925-4636 for an appointment.

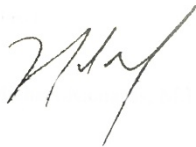
In some very positive news, I'm pleased that the Department of Family & Community Medicine is partnering with the U.S. Indian Health Service to create a family medicine residency at the Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, N.M. A \$2.25 million Health Resources and Services Administration planning grant will help establish the 1+2 program, in which residents will spend their first year training at UNM and spend their second and third years at Northern Navajo.

The UNM Office for Community Health and the Navajo Nation worked together to help secure the grant, which will bolster the IHS workforce and greatly benefit local communities. Congratulations are due to everyone involved.

Warm regards,



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



Michael Richards, MD, MPA
Senior Vice Chancellor of Clinical Affairs