

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

Colleagues:

I write to inform you of our ongoing work with the NM Department of Health and Higher Education Department to ensure opportunities for our faculty and staff to be vaccinated. Note that there will be some variations from campus to campus, as the vaccination sites, processes, and timelines vary somewhat from Taos, to Gallup, to Los Alamos, to Valencia, to Albuquerque.

The good news: many of our faculty and staff are in the current Phase 1B vaccination group. Faculty and staff who must come to campus to carry on in-person instructional experiences, those who must come to campus to support in-person instructional experiences, those who are working in research centers and laboratories and cannot work remotely, and those who are working on federal contracts and cannot work remotely, are classified by the State of NM as being in [Phase 1B under the Essential Workers group](#). This is the current vaccination phase and, for state-run vaccination sites, in-person educators are the second highest priority on that essential workers list.

I urge all who wish to be vaccinated to sign up at the state's vaccination registration site (<https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/>). Indicate your employer as University of New Mexico, and for faculty and most of our staff, your occupation is "Educator." Some of our staff will have different occupations to list, and we are currently working with the state to provide clearer guidance on this. At present, the registration site does not include an option to indicate that you are working on-site, but the Department of Health is exploring adding one. If they do, you will be able to go back into your vaccination profile on the site to appropriately add this information.

As I'm sure you have seen, UNM Hospital will be opening a mass vaccination site at The Pit. UNMH is now using the state's vaccination portal for vaccination signups, so once again, please register on the state site.

There are very large numbers of New Mexicans to be vaccinated, and it will take time to get to each of us, and it won't go perfectly. But this amazing tool against the virus is now being deployed and will help us all. We have genuine reason to feel hopeful.

Even if you have been vaccinated, you must still employ COVID safe practices – wear your mask, socially distance, work remotely if you can. The public health orders have not changed on this, and do not excuse the vaccinated from practicing these critical habits. Even if you are vaccinated the virus can infect you. While your resulting immune response is highly likely to prevent it from producing disease, there is still a small chance you could become ill. Moreover, very little is known about the ability of the vaccinated to spread the virus even when they are not themselves sick.

Thanks for all you have done during this incredibly hard time.

James Paul Holloway
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Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs