

November 5, 2021

Colleagues:

Thank you for all you have done and are doing to support our students. The vaccination program we have undertaken has included multiple elements: incentives, education, vaccination clinics on campus, peer-to-peer outreach by our Lobo Prevention Pack and other student groups, and a vaccination mandate. No one of these alone would have been enough to get us here.

Our UNM vaccination rate is at 92% for students across all campuses. Most of the remaining students have qualified exemptions from vaccination and are undergoing weekly COVID-19 testing or are fully online. We all can feel safer about health outcomes as a result of your tremendous effort to support vaccination and qualified exemptions. Thank you for protecting yourself and protecting your students and co-workers.

Nonetheless, we are at the point where we must disenroll 256 students who have not responded to the mandate in any way: 164 in Albuquerque, and 92 from our branch campuses in Gallup, Los Alamos, Taos, and Valencia. An incredible staff and student effort of phoning, texting, and e-mailing non-responsive students has taken place all semester. That effort has yielded the steady rise in vaccination on our campuses over the past few months. Now, however, those few students who have not provided vaccination information or requested and received a qualified exemption will be disenrolled.

Disenrollment on November 5 will not result in students having to return any financial aid received for Fall 2021, although it could have consequences for later financial aid since disenrolled students will not receive credit and grades for Fall 2021.

Faculty do not have to take any action with respect to disenrolled students. The students will be assigned a "W" (withdraw). Please note that disenrollment results from a student not having responded to the mandate by providing information. Disenrollment is not information about a student's vaccination status.

New students entering the university or students returning to UNM for Spring 2022 should submit vaccination information to the vaccination verification site or request a medical or religious exemption as soon as possible. Students seeking a remote/online exemption must explicitly request one for Spring 2022. A student who is disenrolled on November 5, 2021 may return to the university in Spring 2022 if they submit COVID-19 vaccination information or request and receive a qualified exemption.

UNM's goal is to protect the health of members of the community and to make it possible for students to continue their educations in a COVID-safe environment. We welcome students who become vaccinated for COVID-19, and those who receive qualified exemptions and are regularly tested, onto our campuses.

James Paul Holloway
Professor of Nuclear Engineering
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of New Mexico