

ALL UNIVERSITY MESSAGE

Important Campus Update on UNM Period of Limited Operations

Good morning.

First, I hope you and your families are safe during this unsettling time in our state, nation and world. As Lobos we like to say ‘each of us defines all of us’ – and that has never been more true than it is right now. Although we are all striving to maintain social distance, we also still have a social responsibility to remain calm during chaos, adaptable during change, and united during times of uncertainty.

Yesterday, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham [announced a series of Executive Orders](#) that have gone into effect today, Thursday, March 19, 2020. The governor’s directives require the closure of all malls, movie theaters and gyms, and limit all restaurants to take-out or delivery only. Governor Lujan Grisham has also directed anyone traveling into New Mexico to self-isolate for 14 days. Similarly, Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller has [declared](#) a local public health emergency – allowing the city more access to funding for COVID-19 response and resources.

These state and local measures are being taken to further encourage the social distancing necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to keep our health care system from becoming overwhelmed.

In these extraordinary times, extraordinary measures must be taken to safeguard our university community and maintain our educational mission.

While UNM remains open for business, most services, including classes, will now only be offered remotely using online technology. Given the scope of this disease and its progression, it is not realistic to hope that we will be able to come together in large groups, including traditional in-person classes, after our current period of limited operations. Therefore, courses will move online on a rolling basis to the fullest extent possible beginning Monday, March 23. In-person group educational experiences will have to be replaced with other forms or eliminated. We are committed to ensuring that every student approaching graduation will graduate, and we are committed to ensuring that any course that must be truncated will receive academic credit.

I am also further [restricting access](#) to a number of our buildings on our [Albuquerque](#) and [branch campuses](#), including the [Health Sciences Center \(HSC\)](#). [Until further notice, Johnson Gym and the Student Union Building will have access restricted to those employees who need to work within them to continue operations online. Zimmerman Library and other main campus and HSC](#)



March 19, 2020

library spaces are similarly restricted; [a very full set of library services remain available online](#). The Dane Smith Hall facility will be available for students needing computer access. UNM will also be restricting access to classrooms. We will be working to reduce the number of students in on-campus housing, and campus [food options will be limited to La Posada and the SRC Market for takeout only](#). Due to limited operations and the reduced number of personnel on site, most HSC buildings will be badge or key entry access only. If you should accidentally be locked out of your building and do not have someone to call to let you in, please contact UNM Police at (505) 277-2241.

Again, I should emphasize that **UNM is not closing**. We will continue striving to create a safe and healthy place for our students to learn, innovate and achieve, while shifting our focus to further developing and refining virtual learning environments and services.

There is no doubt these actions will prompt many questions, especially for our students. Please be assured that my leadership team and I are working hard to get you the answers and guidance you need as quickly and as accurately as possible. Further information regarding housing and classes will be sent to students shortly. Please also continue checking the University's [designated COVID-19](#) website for those updates and more information as it becomes available.

I can't overemphasize my gratitude to all of you for your patience and community spirit, and for adapting so quickly during this unprecedented and ever-changing situation. A special thanks to our health care workers, custodians, police and front-line staff who continue to maintain a strong physical presence at the University for protecting the health and safety of our community and supporting the mission of the University.

Sincerely,

Garnett S. Stokes
President

