

## ALL UNIVERSITY MESSAGE

Good afternoon Lobos -

As we move into the final weeks of the Spring 2021 semester, I am pleased to share the current status of our planning for this summer and fall. Our top priority continues to be safeguarding the health and well-being of our community, while continuing to provide a world-class educational experience and advancing our public research mission. As Governor Lujan Grisham announced last week, New Mexico is “conquering COVID.” This is exciting news, as our state looks forward to fully reopening - but to do so, we need to reach the state’s goal of 60% full vaccination. We are highly encouraging all Lobos to get vaccinated, wherever they are. In New Mexico, anyone over the age of 16 is eligible to [register and to self-schedule an appointment to be vaccinated](#). If you are getting a two-dose vaccine, don’t forget the second shot - it is important. I appreciate everyone’s ongoing commitment to protecting the pack, which will allow us a successful return to operations with a full presence on campus.

As always, our planning and decisions will continue to be informed by public health orders, the most current guidance from [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [New Mexico Department of Health \(NMDOH\)](#), and the expertise of our own health and medical professionals. UNM Human Resources will continue to provide the latest guidance on expectations and protocols for maintaining a COVID-19 safe environment.

Our plans are based on the assumption that public health conditions will continue to improve and that a significant proportion of our students, faculty and staff will be vaccinated by the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester. While the University has not made a final decision, we have drafted a [vaccine requirement policy](#) for our community’s consideration; your review and feedback are encouraged.

Current plan details are outlined below and will continue to be updated on the refreshed [Bringing Back the Pack website](#), under The Pack is Back: a safe return to campus. UNM Health Sciences Center has largely returned to full operations already and will [continue to follow UNM HSC guidance](#).

### Fall 2021 - The Pack is Back

As both the Provost and I have shared in previous communications, we are planning to return to mostly in-person operations and [student residency](#) for the 2021-2022 academic year. The University began scheduling [classes](#) last month for both Summer and Fall 2021. We are also anticipating a return to the traditional student activities as well as athletic events, which will adhere to NCAA and Mountain West Conference



guidelines. There might still be a need for physical distancing and continued use of face coverings indoors, with specific guidelines to be outlined on the [Bringing Back the Pack website](#).

### Summer 2021

- [Travel restrictions](#) will be lifted after May 15.
- [Research guidelines](#) have been updated, effective May 16.
- Operations will remain “as-is” and follow existing processes through June 30.
- The suspension of hiring and personnel actions that is currently in place will be lifted effective July 1.
- The month of July will be a planning month, and staff, who have been sustaining university operations remotely, will begin having conversations with supervisors about phasing back into on-campus work or discussing on-going remote work arrangements.
- The optional \$40 stipend that has been available for Tier 1 and 2 employees will discontinue after July 31.
- We are targeting being fully back on campus by August 2.
  - UNM Human Resources will be providing additional guidance for supervisors and departments in the coming weeks.

### Spring 2021

- [Spring 2021 Commencement](#) will be held in-person at University Stadium on Saturday, May 15 for graduates only, and will be celebrated via gradstream for family and friends
- [Food restrictions will be lifted](#) for main and branch campuses effective today, May 3.
  - [Catering by UNM Food](#) is currently available to safely cater your events following all NM DOH COVID-Safe practices, offering a wide variety of individually packaged meals, snacks, and beverages for no-contact delivery or grab and go.

I want to let you know that we recognize the level of personal and professional disruption we have all experienced in having to transition to over a year of remote and limited operations, and the resulting challenges this has created. UNM is committed to supporting all of our Lobos, and as we plan for a more traditional campus experience, flexibility and [mental well-being](#) remain essential.

What is certain is that nothing is certain when it comes to the pandemic - so if we



are called upon to reexamine our decisions to protect the health and well-being of the University community over the coming weeks and months, we will do so together. On behalf of the entire UNM administration and my husband, Jeff, we can't wait to welcome you back!

Let's Go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes

President

