

ALL UNIVERSITY MESSAGE

Good morning Lobos -

After more than a year of mostly remote learning and working, mask mandates and testing, we are finally approaching the return to campus this fall with a sense of optimism and renewed purpose to lean deep into our mission. I feel I must take every opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your resilience and continued vigilance and would again like to express a special thanks to those who have been coming to classes or work on our respective campuses throughout the pandemic in service to our students, patients, colleagues and communities.

Our priority continues to be creating a safe learning, research, patient care and living environment for both our Lobo and extended communities. We have taken no guidance, perspective, or concern for granted - from our students and their families, to our faculty and staff, to our highly skilled medical experts at the UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC), who have been on the front lines for 18 months.

UNM Sets Aspirational Goal for 100% Vaccination

We know that bringing our campus together, and keeping us together safely, requires wide-scale vaccination. I know we have grown weary over more than a year of pandemic restrictions, but it is more important than ever to maximize vaccinations before we return for the fall. UNM's approach is going to be strongly encouraging vaccination for all and doing everything we can to get every Lobo fully vaccinated. We must recognize that the vaccine is still under Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA and some of our Lobos need accommodation, so we will not require it during the Fall semester, but we are trusting in the responsibility we have to ourselves, our families and communities, to get as many people as possible vaccinated at UNM. Vaccination clinics will be available during move-in and Welcome Back Days, as well as at other special events, and will take place at the SUB and other locations. Check the [Bringing Back the Pack site](#) for forthcoming specific locations and times. We also look forward to vaccination incentive drives and other similar promotional efforts. We need our UNM population to be fully vaccinated, and as soon as possible. NOW is the best time to become fully vaccinated - so please don't wait!

We are in the distinctive and fortunate position to be home to the State's only academic medical center - the UNM HSC. We have outstanding researchers and practitioners whose expertise and experience inform both our own and the State's health advisory bodies and who are trusted sources of information within our own University. I encourage you to make yourself familiar with the HSC [#10to100 Challenge](#), which explores topics and challenges related to the COVID-19 vaccine in an effort to reach 100 percent vaccination - they have currently achieved a very encouraging 93 percent vaccination rate. As new variant strains emerge, University-wide commitment to vaccination will mean that we can offer the in-person Lobo



experience that the campus community deserves. I look forward to challenging and inspiring ourselves and our fellow Lobos to reach for that 100 percent in the coming weeks. We will determine intermediate goals that will inform a continuous evaluation process, all of which will be communicated with regular updates.

Many thanks to all of you who volunteered your vaccination status on the [UNM COVID-19 Dashboard](#) – outside of UNM Health Sciences employees, we’ve had more than 10,000 respondents. Having this initial set of information on UNM vaccinations is important, and I hope we can all continue to encourage one another to be vaccinated and report your status; this is critical to evaluating the safety of our campuses.

If you are not vaccinated, please continue to wear a mask. If you need to get a vaccination, [schedule your shot today!](#)

Have a great week, and let’s go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President

