

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 5.29.2020

Dr. James Malm

CONTINUED LIMITED CAMPUS OPERATIONS.

Yesterday, we received the good news from our governor that our COVID-19 mitigation efforts continue to flatten the curve, and additional phased reopening plans are being implemented statewide. With some capacity restrictions in place, restaurants are now able to offer dine-in options, salons and barbershops can operate, and additional state parks will be available for enjoyment during the summer months. We are reminded, though, that masks or face coverings are still required in public, and we should continue to adhere to other COVID-safe practices such as rigorous handwashing and social distancing.

At UNM-Gallup, we continue to implement an approach to this pandemic that follows the data, relies on local and state public health information, and parallels other guidance from the many experts within our UNM community who are actively engaged in a safe reopening plan for all of our campuses. I want to emphasize that UNM-Gallup is committed to building and maintaining a culture of mutual protection of our university personnel—all of our students, faculty, staff, tenants, and community members pursuing their educational and career goals with us. Our pledge as we move through this pandemic is to reduce and minimize the transmission of COVID-19 among our personnel so that isolated cases do not become widespread infections.

In the spirit of transparency and keeping you updated, I'd like to communicate the following important developments:

- We have implemented a UNM-Gallup Presumptive Planning Group (RPG) that meets weekly on Friday to develop and execute our response and updates to our campus plan and protocols during this pandemic. The group will meet every Friday morning and will communicate updates to you by the end of day on Friday.
- **We are continuing our period of limited operations** until further notice with remote work and learning within our assigned employee tier system. Telecommuting remains our default for the majority of UNM-Gallup faculty, staff, and students. All summer courses remain online. And, meetings must take place remotely whenever possible.
- **Managers and supervisors will not ask employees to return to campus until they receive official notice from their respective senior staff** of the Chancellor, Dean, Director of Student Services, or Director of Business Operations.
- Campus buildings will remain locked with no public access. We have a few essential Tier 1 employees who will have access to facilities, but we will continue to limit access to campus facilities.
- Our essential facilities management team members will be on campus under the close supervision of senior staff and with strict COVID-19 protocols to complete campus projects, updates, and cleaning.
- The campus bookstore is offering curbside pickup through June 5th. Please review the guidelines at <https://gallup.unm.edu/bookstore/> to schedule an appointment. Our library is considering additional options or conveniences for our campus to better utilize its services that could include curbside pickup in the near future. We will keep you updated as the library's plan is further developed.

- **We are developing a plan to safely reopen the fitness trail** and anticipate that we will be able to do so next week. Please stay tuned.

You are to be commended for your service to our university. Over the past few months, we have each been asked to make incredible adjustments in our personal and professional lives as a response to the virus—and there have been those within our campus community impacted in some way by this pandemic. The past few months have truly been a jolting experience. My commitment to you is that our every step forward will be deliberate and with your health and safety at the forefront of every decision.

Also, please remain engaged in our daily COVID-19 updates and Chancellor's Open Office Hour each weekday at 4 p.m. on Zoom. These are great opportunities to share questions, concerns, and check in with each other.

Stay safe. Stay well. And, have a wonderful weekend.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J. Malm'.

Dr. James R. Malm
Professor of Business
Chancellor