

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 5.7.2021

Dr. James Malm

HOPEFUL RETURN.

I come to you today with some hopeful news and updates on our safe return to campus perhaps as soon as this summer and the fall semester. Without a doubt, it has been a long, difficult year of coronavirus pandemic operations. But it has also been a year of heroics and sheroics in our remote offices, classrooms, and labs by faculty, students, and staff.

Based on current available data and public health guidance, we are beginning the process to pivot out of quarantine and isolation for a hybrid return to campus this summer and a reopening of campus by August 15th. I want to emphasize that our evolving plans will closely align with main campus "[Bringing Back the Pack](#)" guidelines and are dependent on public health conditions continuing to improve.

Over the summer, we will begin to implement the following steps:

- A soft hybrid reopening of campus beginning on May 16th to include a limited return of some faculty and staff to their departments along with a few revised campus services in the bookstore and library. This will involve conversations among faculty and staff with their supervisors and department chairs about phasing back into on-campus work or discussing ongoing remote work arrangements. We will also evaluate plans to reopen the gym.
- Chancellor's offices will be open Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays from 8 a.m. to Noon and operating virtually during other normal operating hours through the summer. We will continue to create and publish a synergistic listing of other offices opening as their safe return plans and schedules are determined.
- Eventual lifting of business travel restrictions.
- Continued planning for a fuller campus reopening on August 15th.

To share sentiments from UNM President Garnett Stokes, our reopening plans are dependent on a significant portion of our faculty, staff, and students being vaccinated by the start of the fall semester. You may have heard that UNM is considering a draft vaccine requirement policy and asks for your feedback or questions as this policy is formulated and possibly implemented in the coming weeks. I invite you to visit <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/> and provide feedback if you feel strongly about a vaccine requirement for our UNM system. We will also include a direct link to the proposal and feedback survey in our Monday "What's Happening" campus email.

This seems to be the moment we've all been waiting for as we begin taking real steps to a return to normal in the coming weeks and months. We are not there yet, but we remain hopeful and committed to wearing a face mask indoors, socially distancing, and washing our hands to mitigate this virus.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

I'd like to also share recent faculty honors as the University of New Mexico's Center for Teaching Excellence named UNM-Gallup's Dr. Tracy Lassiter as the 2020-21 Branch Campus Teacher of the Year and Cecille

Perales as the 2020-21 Branch Campus Lecturer of the Year. They were recognized today during an awards ceremony where we joined with our entire UNM community to celebrate their achievement.

GRADUATION REMINDER

To our 2020 and 2021 graduates, we are fast approaching next Friday's commencement ceremony. Please remember that this is a student-only ceremony that will be livestreamed on our UNM-Gallup Facebook page for our friends and family members to view. We will be joined by just a few faculty and local dignitaries due to current public health requirements. If you'd like to participate in the ceremony, please go to gallup.unm.edu/students/graduation and register at your earliest convenience.

We begin our final exam week on Monday, and I join with our faculty and staff in wishing all students good rest, productive studying, and a successful finish to the spring semester.

Please stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,

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

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business