

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 8.3.2021

Dr. James Malm

VACCINATION REQUIRED.

Greetings to you during this first full week of normal operations for UNM-Gallup in over 500 days since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of your hard work, commitment to safety, and the good work of our local public health professionals, we can pivot to a more usual campus environment as we approach the fall semester.

We are so fortunate to live in a community where nearly 100 percent of the local population has received at least one dose of the vaccine. But we also know from recent CDC data that the Delta Variant is affecting unvaccinated individuals severely, causing health officials nationwide to reimplement mask requirements and other guidelines that add layers of protection for us all. Of course, as these new guidelines are implemented nationally, they'll have an impact on us here at UNM-Gallup.

Over the course of the past few days, we've received new information on COVID-19 requirements from UNM's main campus that apply to our campus as well. Because of their importance and impact to your safety and health, I'd like to make sure that these new requirements are clear to us all.

MASK REQUIREMENTS

Effective this past Monday, August 2nd, UNM-Gallup will require masks to be worn indoors by all individuals, vaccinated and unvaccinated. All students, faculty, staff, and visitors should wear their masks at all times in UNM-Gallup buildings unless they are eating, drinking, or in an office alone. The update to this policy is based on CDC guidance that masks must be worn in counties with a seven-day average community transmission of more than seven new cases per 100,000 persons. Unfortunately, McKinley County has recently seen an increase in transmission that places us above this line.

Vaccinated individuals *are not* required to wear a mask outdoors on campus, including the fitness trail. We will revisit our masking policy as we continue to watch relevant data on disease progression.

UNM VACCINE REQUIREMENT

Last night, we all received a message from UNM president Garnett Stokes, where she announced that UNM will implement a vaccine requirement effective this Thursday, August 5th. While I encourage you to read last night's President's Weekly Perspective email on your own, here are a few items important for you to know coming directly from the announcement:

- The vaccination requirement includes UNM-Gallup and applies to all our personnel and students who access our campus and facilities.
- There are accommodations available for individuals who are not able to be vaccinated due to disability, medical condition, or sincere religious belief.

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- All employees and students must provide documentation of full vaccination using a vaccine authorized by FDA License or under an FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).
- [A website for the purpose of these uploads will be available.](#) Employees and students that have already provided proof of vaccine status are not required to resubmit proof documents.

We will link information provided within the UNM vaccination requirement on the UNM-Gallup homepage at gallup.unm.edu for your convenience. This will include information on how to provide proof of vaccination along with how to request a religious or disability/serious medical condition accommodation. **Personnel and students must be vaccinated—and provide proof of vaccination—no later than Thursday, September 30th.**

Vaccination remains the most efficient and effective way out of this pandemic. While these new policies may not be ideal, they are necessary to keep our campus community safe and healthy—and to allow us all to be in-person and on campus this fall semester and beyond.

I encourage all of us to continue being patient and charitable with one another as we see our way to better days ahead. 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