UNM Provost Administrative Directive on Mandatory Student Face Covering and Symptom Reporting

Your health is important, and the health of the UNM and New Mexico community is important too. For this reason, the University of New Mexico fully subscribes to State of New Mexico public health orders on COVID-19, and expects all students to behave responsibly in this difficult time.

UNM is following Governor Lujan Grisham’s Public Health Emergency Order and the All Together New Mexico: COVID-SAFE Practices for Individuals and Employers guidelines, which state: “Individuals are required to wear a face covering or mask in public spaces except when eating, drinking or exercising, or unless otherwise advised by a health care provider.” UNM leadership has already stated that, per these orders and the supporting public health law, employees, students, and visitors to UNM, must wear face coverings when they are on the campuses and in the facilities of the University of New Mexico.

The State of New Mexico public health orders allow an exception when an individual is eating or drinking or exercising. UNM honors this exception for spaces clearly and specifically designated on campus for eating and drinking, or exercising; this does not include classroom, study, or meeting spaces. Students must follow the rules for face covering and social distancing posted in UNM gyms and exercise facilities. Individuals with documented health reasons for not wearing a face covering may seek an exception; students may seek the exception through the UNM Accessibility Resource Center (ARC).

As we approach the fall semester, the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs is issuing this administrative directive to apply to all UNM students:

1. All students are required to wear face masks, except when in their own dorm room or personal space, or under the state exceptions mentioned above. Students who do not wear a mask to a face-to-face class meetings on campus can expect to be asked to leave the classroom, to receive a low participation grade, and to be dropped from the class if failure to wear a mask occurs multiple times. Students who do not wear a mask in classrooms and other public spaces on UNM campuses are also subject to disciplinary proceedings under the Student Code of Conduct.

2. All students coming to campus should screen themselves daily for COVID-19 symptoms. Effective with the fall term (and immediately for HSC students), the University of New Mexico will require that all enrolled UNM students complete a daily online symptom screening. This will be sent regularly by e-mail to all members of the UNM community, including students. During the summer, students coming to campus may be required to provide a record of screening through other means.

This administrative directive is in effect until December 31, 2020, unless notified otherwise.

Remember, wearing a mask is a tool of mutual protection. I protect you; you protect me.
James Paul Holloway
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs