

Aug. 3, 2026

Dear Colleagues, Students and Community Members:

As you all are aware, the City of Gallup is experiencing numerous water issues due to loss of water-well functionality and recent storms, amongst other complications. These outages have impacted The University of New Mexico-Gallup campus, forcing closures and creating a more stressful run-up to the 2026 fall semester than any of us would like.

I want to assure everyone that regardless of the environment surrounding UNM-Gallup, we are committed to the safety of our employees, students, visitors, and community members while remaining focused on delivering on our mission. I am in contact with city officials, the Provost's Office and UNM's Office of Emergency Management to discuss the scope and scale of these issues, how we can best respond, and to facilitate communication.

We are currently in an information gathering phase but will shortly shift to more intensive conversations amongst stakeholders and with specific guidance and recommendations around how we should proceed given that this may be a long-term issue with the city's water supply.

To relay the most recent and comprehensive information regarding these water outages, I have attached a link to a recent emergency meeting of the Gallup City Council: <https://www.youtube.com/live/I-31dtG9DfM?si=24xhx1osW5P-xjo3>

A few relevant points from this video:

- Gallup gets its water from 16 wells in the region. Currently, eight of them are out.
- The council approved \$2.1 million for repairs, which may take up to eight months.
- If all current wells remain operational, the city can maintain capacity.

As I receive additional updates, I will pass them along. We will also update the UNM-Gallup website: <https://www.gallup.unm.edu/> as necessary. The following is the link for the City of Gallup: <https://www.gallupnm.gov/>.

Many thanks for your patience during this challenging time and please know that I have full faith that we can navigate these issues through open communication, shared understanding, and creative problem-solving.

All my best,
John Zimmerman
Interim Chancellor
The University of New Mexico-Gallup