

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 3.12.2021

Dr. James Malm

ONE YEAR.

We began this week with the celebration of International Women's Day, and we are ending this week commemorating one year of living through the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a time to look back at what we've endured together and acknowledge all of the tribulations and triumphs that will leave an indelible mark on us for years and decades to come. We honor and remember those neighbors and family members we've lost due to COVID, and we are so grateful for those who have recovered from this virus.

Just this week, McKinley County was moved to the green level within the state's ['Red to Green' framework](#). This means that our county is now experiencing a very low rate of new case incidences coupled with a low test positivity rate. As one of the hardest hit areas of the country, this is welcomed news for our community and local businesses. Our mitigation efforts are working, and we must keep up the good work: Social distance, wear a face mask in public, and wash your hands.

With this welcomed good news for our county, UNM-Gallup continues to be a partner in our community's success in defeating this virus. As you know, we are hosting weekly mass vaccination events that are held and managed by Indian Health Services (IHS) for its beneficiaries. While these events may cause some heavier-than-usual traffic on our campus, along with some other inconveniences, I strongly believe that it is our responsibility as a public institution to lend a hand to our community partners when called to help.

Even more, many of those in line to receive their vaccine are members of our campus community: Our students, faculty, and staff. IHS has a goal to deliver 36,000 COVID-19 vaccines by this summer, which represents 80 percent of their patient population. We are so proud to help them achieve that goal and defeat this virus. By doing so, we will reach our own goal to return to normal campus operations this year. This is a mutually beneficial relationship and a partnership that I am proud to continue until we find our way out of this pandemic.

SPRING BREAK

With the increasing number of vaccines occurring each day, I am so hopeful that we will see each other back on campus in the coming months. As we go into our spring break next week, we do so knowing that the strong finish to this semester may be the last one we have to do almost entirely remotely. Stay strong, get some rest, and keep up the good work. There is light at the end of this dark tunnel.

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