



## Vice Chancellor's Office

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**Date:** Aug. 3, 2021

**To:** NMSU System Faculty, Staff and Students

**From:** Ruth A. Johnston, Vice Chancellor and Chief COVID-19 Officer 

**Subject:** Vaccine and testing requirements begin Sept. 30 for all NMSU system employees

The New Mexico State University system continues to prioritize being agile and adaptive in its response to the changing pandemic landscape and evolving guidance from state and federal officials. In alignment with [requirements announced Thursday](#) by New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, and in consultation with health and safety experts from across the NMSU system, as well as state and federal agencies, **NMSU is currently planning to require all employees at all campuses and offices statewide to provide proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test on a weekly basis, beginning Sept. 30, 2021.** We are currently discussing vaccination and testing requirements for our students, and an announcement on this decision will be forthcoming.

This is a change from our previous policy, which strongly encouraged, but did not require, vaccination or testing for employees. This change is consistent with the commitment we have made since the beginning of the pandemic to monitor the latest guidance at the federal and state levels, and take additional steps as a university system, should conditions warrant, to uphold our commitment to the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

A team that includes human resources, student success, and health officials is currently developing a plan for implementing this new initiative. More information will be shared soon.

Our next NMSU system [town hall webinar](#) will be at 3 p.m. on Aug. 10 and will focus on the return to campus for faculty, staff, and students, including the new vaccination and testing requirement. You may submit questions in [advance](#) and watch via [Zoom](#) or [Panopto](#). For more information, contact the Office of the President at 575-646-2127.

COVID-19 vaccines are available at no cost to you through many sources in New Mexico and elsewhere. In Las Cruces, [Aggie Health and Wellness Center](#) offers free vaccine appointments, which can be scheduled by calling 575-646-1512. Local pharmacies and grocery stores across the state also offer the vaccine. Visit [VaccineNM.org](#) to schedule a vaccine appointment today. Throughout August, all New Mexicans will be eligible for a \$100 incentive for getting a dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 testing is currently available at no cost from many providers, including [Aggie Health and Wellness Center](#) and [Doña Ana Community College's East Mesa campus](#). A list of available testing sites across New Mexico is available through the [New Mexico Department of Health](#).

We ask for your patience as we develop and communicate details of the logistics for this initiative. As always, we welcome your questions at [covid19@nmsu.edu](mailto:covid19@nmsu.edu).