



Office of the Chancellor

Chancellor Weekly Brief 5.7.2021 Dr. James Malm

HOPEFUL RETURN.

I come to you today with some hopeful news on our safe return to campus perhaps as soon as this summer and the fall semester. Without a doubt, it has been a long, difficult year of coronavirus pandemic operations. But it has also been a year of heroics and sheroics in our remote offices, classrooms, and in our faculty, students, and staff.

Based on current available data and public health guidance, we are beginning the process to pivot out of quarantine and isolation for a hybrid return to campus this summer and a reopening of campus by August 15th. I want to emphasize that our evolving plans will closely align with [Bringing Back the Pack](#) guidelines and are dependent on public health conditions continuing to improve.

Over the summer, we will begin to implement the following steps:

- A soft hybrid reopening of campus beginning on May 16th to include a limited return of some faculty and staff to their departments with a few revised campus services in the bookstore and library. This will involve conversations among faculty and staff with their supervisors and department chairs about phasing back into campus work or discussing ongoing remote work arrangements. We will also evaluate plans to reopen the gym.

- Eventual lifting of business travel restrictions.

- Continued planning for a fuller campus reopening on August 15th.

In addition to the sentiments from UNM President Garnett Stokes, our reopening plans are dependent on a significant portion of our faculty, staff, and students being vaccinated by the start of the fall semester. You may have heard that UNM is considering a draft vaccine requirement policy and asks for your feedback or questions as the policy is formulated and possibly implemented in the coming weeks. I invite you to visit <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu> or call our UNM system. We will also include your direct input in the proposal and reopening campus email.



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