

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNOR



STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
ACTING CABINET SECRETARY

December 30, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Higher Education Presidents, Chancellors, and Administrators
FROM: Stephanie Rodriguez, Acting Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department
CC: Dr. Patricia Trujillo, Deputy Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department
RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System

As the State of New Mexico and the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) begin to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine and as higher education institutions prepare for the spring semester, the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) is providing ongoing guidance and support surrounding COVID-19 vaccine distribution within the higher education sector.

In the meantime, we encourage you to inform your students and staff, especially students and faculty in healthcare settings and clinical rotations, to preregister for the vaccine via the [COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System](#) if they haven't done so already. Any New Mexico resident can preregister using the portal, but distribution will take place in order of priority as determined by state guidelines. More information about the COVID-19 vaccine and distribution criteria can be found [here](#).

In our communications with the NMDOH and Secretary Designate Tracie Collins, we have highlighted the ongoing collaboration with New Mexico's public colleges and universities on COVID-19 testing efforts over the course of the pandemic, and we understand that higher education institutions will be critical to the distribution of vaccines, particularly within rural communities. We are grateful to our state's higher education institutions for providing staff and resources, and we strongly encourage you to continue to support the COVID-19 vaccine distribution effort moving forward.

We also want to acknowledge your significant efforts to mitigate COVID-19 spread within your respective higher education institutions and communities. It has been a heavy lift and although our work is not done, the distribution of vaccines across New Mexico brings hope for relief to our campuses and communities in the coming year.

Questions

The NMHED appreciates your ongoing support of the agency, public health orders, and executive orders. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the agency via email at NMHED.COVID@state.nm.us.