MEDIA ADVISORY: COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing Temporarily Discontinued

Due to an unanticipated disruption in COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing supplies, we are temporarily discontinuing asymptomatic testing at all University of New Mexico Hospital, Presbyterian and Lovelace Health Systems locations, including drive-thru testing sites.

All three health systems will now only conduct testing for patients with COVID-19 symptoms. Presbyterian will continue to also test those with an exposure to a known COVID-19 infection.

To ensure timely access to a COVID-19 test for the most vulnerable patients, we encourage community members with no COVID-19 symptoms or known exposure and workers looking for a clearance for their employer to visit the New Mexico Department of Health website for alternative testing locations.

Symptoms meeting the criteria for testing include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This does not impact inpatient testing protocols, or protocols for outpatient surgeries or procedures, for each health system.

We want to remind our community to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, staying at least six feet apart from other individuals, washing your hands often and staying home as much as possible. If we each do our part we can protect each other and reduce transmission of the virus.

If asymptomatic testing for community members resumes at our locations, we will make the public aware. We thank the community for your patience and cooperation during this time.