



Office of the Chancellor

MSC 3Z
New Mexico State University
P. O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
575-646-2035, fax: 575-646-6334
chancellor.arvizu@nmsu.edu

DATE: December 22, 2021

TO: All NMSU system employees

FROM: Dan E. Arvizu, NMSU System Chancellor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dan E. Arvizu'.

SUBJECT: NMSU to add booster mandate to vaccine requirements

New Mexico State University's top priority is to stay open while protecting the health of our community. We owe it to our students to do everything possible to continue offering traditional course delivery and to continue offering the support services that our students rely on to be successful. We also owe it to the communities we serve to be able to continue our research and outreach functions. In the face of this latest surge in COVID-19 infections, we need everyone's help for us to be successful.

On Monday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [reported](#) that Omicron, which accounted for less than 1 percent of new COVID-19 cases in the United States as December began, now represents nearly three-quarters of all new cases, underlining how aggressively infectious this new variant is.

That is why we are announcing today that:

- **NMSU will stay the course with requiring all university employees systemwide to become vaccinated.** This includes student employees, contract employees, affiliates, and employees teleworking – including those teleworking from another state. Unless they have received an approved exemption, employees must receive their second dose of a two-dose vaccine series, or their single dose of a one-dose vaccine by Jan. 4, to be fully vaccinated with the primary series by Jan. 18, as a condition of continued employment.
- **Additionally, beginning Feb. 9, NMSU will also require all employees and students who have a presence on campus to receive a booster vaccine.** This is in alignment with a new state [Public Health Order](#) and a subsequent [memo](#) from the New Mexico Higher Education Department urging all institutions of higher education in the state to align with that order. Students who are not employees are still required to either provide proof of vaccination and booster or provide proof of a negative test on a weekly basis submitted to VaxTrax. Students and employees should upload their booster verification to [VaxTrax](#) once completed, or within four weeks of being eligible, according to [FDA](#) guidelines. Those who are not yet eligible for a booster must provide proof of a negative antigen or PCR based COVID-19 test on a weekly basis. If you have already received your booster, you can upload it now. Please do not wait to submit your documents.

Employees who do not comply with these directives, or receive approval for an exemption, will be subject to disciplinary action, including possible termination. Employees, students and affiliates living outside the United States and not coming to the United States for official university business are exempt from the mandates.

We realize that so much of the information surrounding COVID-19, and the protocols required to mitigate the virus change rapidly. Unfortunately, this virus is still with us, and we must continue to be flexible in our response. We appreciate everyone's attention to these new rules. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact covid19@nmsu.edu.

Please have a safe and restful winter break.