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**Office of the President**

May 17, 2021

Dear TTUHSC El Paso family:

I am optimistic now that vaccines are readily available in El Paso and our coronavirus infection rate and hospitalizations are at an all-time low. This progress provides much encouragement and supports the decision for our university to return to face-to-face instruction this summer.

To prepare for the 2020-21 academic year, **TTUHSC El Paso will return to normal operations (i.e., Phase 1) on June 1, 2021.** This means that **all employees should be back to campus, regardless of vaccination status.** We will continue to follow and implement CDC guidelines as they are updated.

**Intent:** Return to daily operations in all areas with no restrictions. Vice Presidents and Deans have approving authority for determining new work locations.

**Personnel:**

- **Fully vaccinated people (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks after final dose) are no longer required to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting on campus.** Such measures are optional for these individuals.
  - **Masks and social distancing are still required in the hospital and clinics in patient care areas.**
- Unvaccinated and vulnerable individuals (as defined by federal guidelines) can resume public interactions but should wear masks.
- All team members should consider minimizing time spent in crowded environments.
- Continue to avoid physical contact including handshakes, hugs and typical greetings.

**Campus Operations:**

- Small and large venues can operate without the need for social distancing.

**Continue to use safe hygiene:**

- Stay home when you are sick and avoid close contact with those who are sick.
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds. If soap and water not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Our campus has responded extraordinarily to the challenges of the past 14 months. I am extremely proud of your commitment to fulfilling our mission and to ensuring the health and safety of our institutions.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication during this time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick".

Richard Lange, M.D., M.B.A  
Rick and Ginger Francis Endowed President  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso