

New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council



The coronavirus pandemic is affecting everyone, not only in New Mexico, but also throughout the United States and around the world. NMNPC is responding to the situation by adjusting our operations (no in-person Board meetings, for example) and is continually monitoring the situation to stay compliant with best practices.

The Education Committee has been holding weekly teleconference meetings so we may be proactive in our planning and respond to the changing circumstances. We made an early decision to postpone our 2020 spring conference to August, but it quickly became clear that a large, in-person conference would likely be unfeasible. The Education Committee is committed to providing NPs with the quality CE necessary for best practice and licensure requirements. Rather than cancel the NMNPC conference, we've decided to bring this year's conference to you virtually. We're confident we can provide an engaging and informative conference in August using this new platform. A significant benefit of the virtual format is that if the new conference dates aren't convenient, our attendees will have up to two weeks following the conference to complete the CE activity. Because our industry sponsors play an important part in bringing high-quality CE to our members at a reasonable cost, our research into virtual conference platforms is considering their needs as well.

Virtual conferences offer unique opportunities:

- Flexible option for either interacting live on the actual days of the conference or completing the CE activity on demand anytime up to two weeks after the conference.
- Innovative "spaces" where registrants can network with colleagues and our sponsoring industry representatives.
- Interactive platforms where speakers can respond to questions and comments from participants.
- Online access means more NPs can participate without incurring travel or accommodation costs and with less time spent away from work.
- No limits on the number of participants who can register for the conference – everyone, near and far, who wants to attend will be able to do so.

These special times have reaffirmed our Committee's commitment to our members and NPs everywhere. This year's virtual conference is an opportunity to support each other during these difficult times. We're asking NPs in New Mexico and around the country to please register for the conference and encourage your colleagues to register because NMNPC is only as strong as our member and non-member supporters. Thank you – we'll be together again soon at our annual conference as usual!

Regards,
Education Committee

Melissa Rietz, Kate Goldblum, Joyce Powers, JD Rayl, Desree Sowers