

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM**

October 18, 2021

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-020

**Public Health Emergency Order Continuing “Orange Status” for
Businesses**

- I. Paragraphs I – IX from Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 are incorporated herein, addressing the various Navajo Nation (Nation) authorities related to the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency as well as escalating incidents and community spread of COVID-19 on the Nation.
- II. In response to COVID-19, the Navajo Nation has established the “Navajo Nation Reopening Plan,” to declare the Nation’s “status” according thereto, and to guide businesses in proper compliance with the plan. All provisions of this Order are to be interpreted to effectuate this intent. Failure to comply with any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health.
- III. The Navajo Nation is experiencing a steady plateau of high transmission cases; therefore, the Nation is continuing “Orange” status for businesses. The Nation remains vigilant as neighboring states are reducing restrictions rapidly and new COVID variants are present and being monitored in states surrounding the Navajo Nation. As coronavirus vaccines continue to be made available on the Navajo Nation, all preventative precautions should continue to be adhered to after receiving the vaccine and booster shot. The Navajo Nation has experienced documented cases of COVID-19 Alpha (B.1.1.7), Gamma (P.1/P.1.1), Epsilon (B.1.427/429), and Delta (B.1.617.2) within the Navajo Nation. According to the CDC, these variants and especially the Delta variant spread more easily and quickly.
- IV. The safest place continues to be at home. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “COVID-19 cases and deaths have been reported in all 50 states, and the situation is constantly changing especially due to emerging variants (B.1.1.7 UK, B.1.351 South Africa, P.1 Brazil). Because travel increases your chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19, **staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick.**”
- V. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)” and **“the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.”**

VI. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Resolution No. CJN-36-21, signed into law on July 6, 2021, the Nation's roads are reopened to Visitors and Tourists, all Navajo Nation enterprises and Navajo businesses are open to Navajo citizens and non-Navajo tourists and visitors, in compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols and applicable Public Health Orders.

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to the power and authority set forth in the NDOH enabling legislation (NNC Resolution No. CO-50-14) and in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Public Health State of Emergency Declaration (CEM Resolution No. 20-03-11):

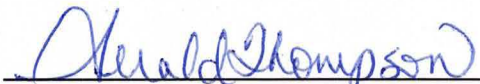
- A. The Navajo Nation Reopening Plan (updated August 12, 2021) is declared binding on all businesses on the Navajo Nation. Available at <https://www.navajoreopening.navajonnsn.gov/>.
- B. Per the Plan's "reopening status schedule," the Navajo Health Command and Operations Center ("NHCOC"), having evaluated the current state of the Navajo Nation per the gating criteria and public health considerations provided in the Plan, declares the Nation to be **Orange status**. All businesses shall be bound to the conditions and requirements of Orange status. The NHCOC will announce any future status changes by Public Health Emergency Order.
- C. Orange status is defined as: 50% of maximum occupancy allowed for most businesses to be open, including:
 - Restaurants, including indoor dining, drive-thru, curbside, and outdoor dining.
 - Navajo casinos.
 - Lodging and hotels including campgrounds and RV parks.
 - Museums and zoos.
 - Marinas and parks. Tour businesses must follow the HCOOC Reopening Guidelines for Tour Businesses.
 - Movie theaters.
- D. Personal Care and Services are allowed by appointment only with cleaning between appointments.
- E. Flea markets and roadside markets are allowed in accordance with guidelines issued by the HCOOC.
- F. Gathering of 15 or fewer people are permitted for youth programs, consistent with guideline from the Health Command Operations Center. Per guideline, report all COVID-19 cases to local health care facility, and to the HCOOC COVID-19 Report Exposure Portal. For questions about reporting cases, call the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.

- G. Holiday gatherings of 15 or fewer people are permitted, consistent with Navajo Health Command Operations Center's guidelines.
- H. Not Allowed in Orange Phase: gyms and recreation facilities.
- I. All businesses are required to submit a COVID-19 Reopening Plan to the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development before reopening in Yellow Status. Reopening plans can be emailed to: navajoeconomy@navajo-nsn.gov

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements (consistent with HIPAA privacy standards).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take effect Monday, October 18, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. MDT, and shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Health Command Operations Center.

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 18th Day of October, 2021.



Geraldine Thompson, Delegated Program Supervisor III
Navajo Office of Environmental Health &
Protection Program
Navajo Department of Health



Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director
Navajo Department of Health
Health Command Operations Center