



Navajo Nation: Covid-19 positive cases increase by 168 as nation prepares to receive CARES Fund pandemic response supplies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 4, 2020

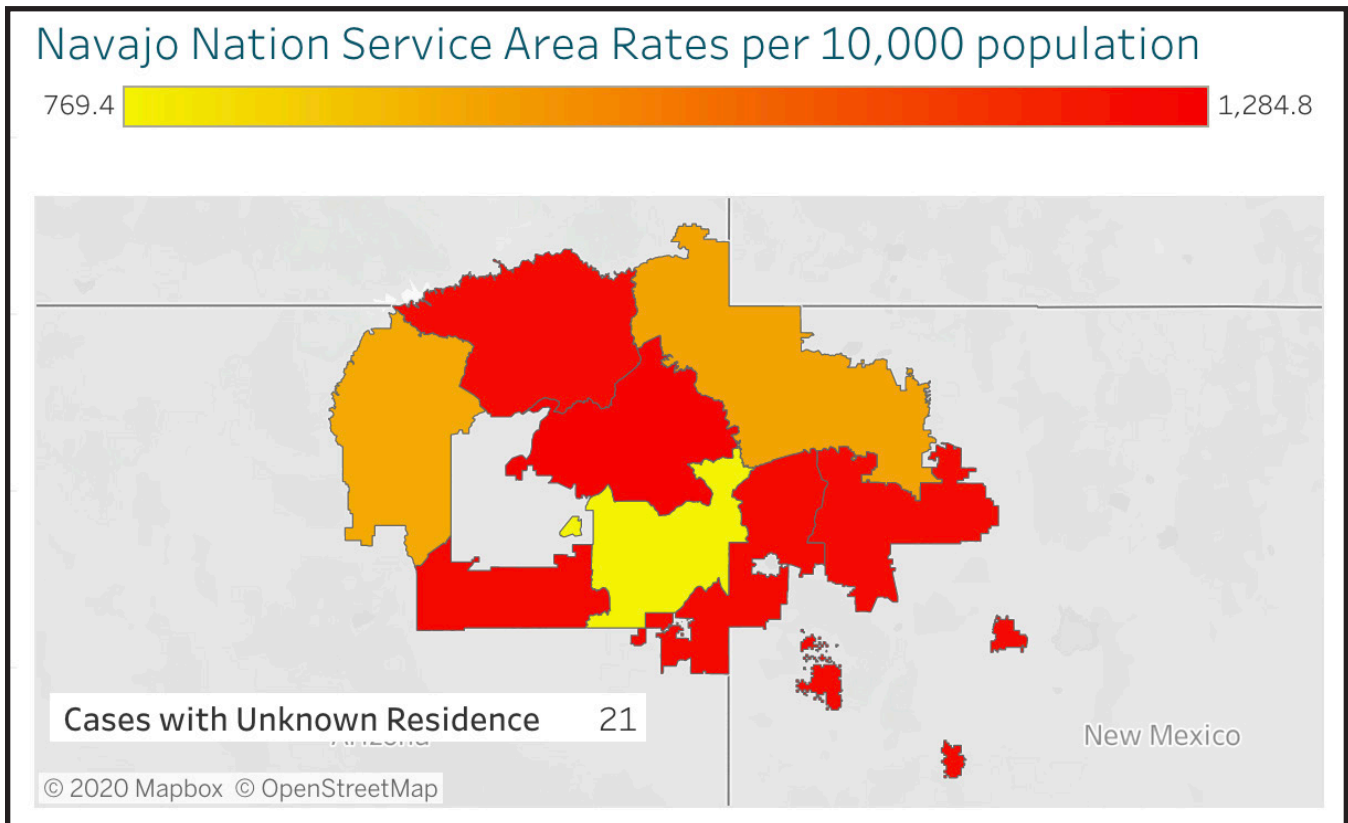


PHOTO: A screenshot of the Navajo Nation Covid-19 dashboard website showing a heat-map of service area rates per 10,000 population for December 4, 2020. The website is accessible at: <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/Data>.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation’s update to coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic situation report from the Health Command Operations Center (HCOC) for December 4, 2020 included data for testing, results, recoveries and mortalities related to Covid-19 in and around the Navajo Nation.

The increase of 168 new cases brings the total confirmed positive cases on the Navajo Nation to 17,495. The total number of mortalities related to Covid-19 on the Navajo Nation increased by 2, bringing the total to 665. The report included 9,768 recovered cases, an increase of 52 from yesterday. A total 169,634 Covid-19 tests have been administered with 140,704 tests were returned with negative results.

“The Navajo Nation Council is heading into this weekend’s 57-hour lockdown advising all citizens of the Navajo Nation to stay home and shelter in place. This is the only way we can avoid the aftershocks from Thanksgiving, during which many families congregated. The Nation’s healthcare professionals have shared with the Council that they are still bracing for the positive cases from the holiday. We all need to do our best to end the spread of the coronavirus before it causes our facilities to enter into full crisis response levels, which may result in closure of clinics to ensure hospitals are fully staffed 24-7,” said Speaker Damon.

Navajo Nation cases by Service Unit

Chinle Service Unit:	3,544
Gallup Service Unit:	2,874
Shiprock Service Unit:	2,741
Crownpoint Service Unit:	1,892
Ft. Defiance Service Unit:	1,819
Kayenta Service Unit:	1,799
Tuba City Service Unit:	1,774
Winslow Service Unit:	1,031

55 Navajo Nation chapters reported positive cases. The communities of heightened concern are: Kayenta, Tuba City, Chinle, Houck, Shiprock, Tachee/Blue Gap, Sanostee, Thoreau, Teec Nos Pos and Ganado. The number of confirmed cases in surrounding border towns was reported to be 4,721.

On Dec. 1, the Budget and Finance Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council heard from the Office of the Controller that a supply staging facility was under construction in Window Rock to house pallets of supplies procured through CARES Act funds approved by the Council in July. The facility will allow for a greater number of Navajo households to maintain social distancing protocols as the Navajo Nation braces for a wave of anticipated cases.

Additionally, the Controller maintained the Nov. 20 deadline for unobligated CARES Act funds to be reallocated to the Navajo Nation Hardship Assistance Program created by the Council through Resolution No. CJY-67-20. The automatic reallocation provisions approved by Council to further fund the Hardship Program would add approximately \$284,763,071 to the original allocation of \$49,454,416. The responsibility of performing the reallocation now rests with the Office of Management and Budget.

On Dec. 3, the Office of Environmental Health and Protection, with the concurrence of the Navajo Department of Health (NDOH) and the HCOC, issued Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-031. The order continues the Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Lockdown Order for an additional three weeks, including full 57-hour weekend lockdowns. Law enforcement will provide patrol services to ensure only essential functions are conducted during the lockdown hours.

The NDOH and the Navajo Epidemiology Center provided the updated Covid-19 figures in coordination with tribally-controlled 638 healthcare facilities and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service. More information, including Covid-19 testing locations, can be found on the Navajo Nation's Covid-19 website at: <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.

The HCOC General Hotline can be reached at (928) 871-7014. Inquiries may be sent to NNHCOCPlans@navajo-nsn.gov. The HCOC hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm, Saturday from 8am to 12pm and Sunday on standby status.

###

MEDIA CONTACTS: communications@navajo-nsn.gov, (928) 287-2085
Byron C. Shorty, INT Communications Director
Timothy E. Benally, Public Information Officer