



Navajo Nation: Covid-19 positive cases increase by 213, related mortalities increase by 15 in 24-hour period

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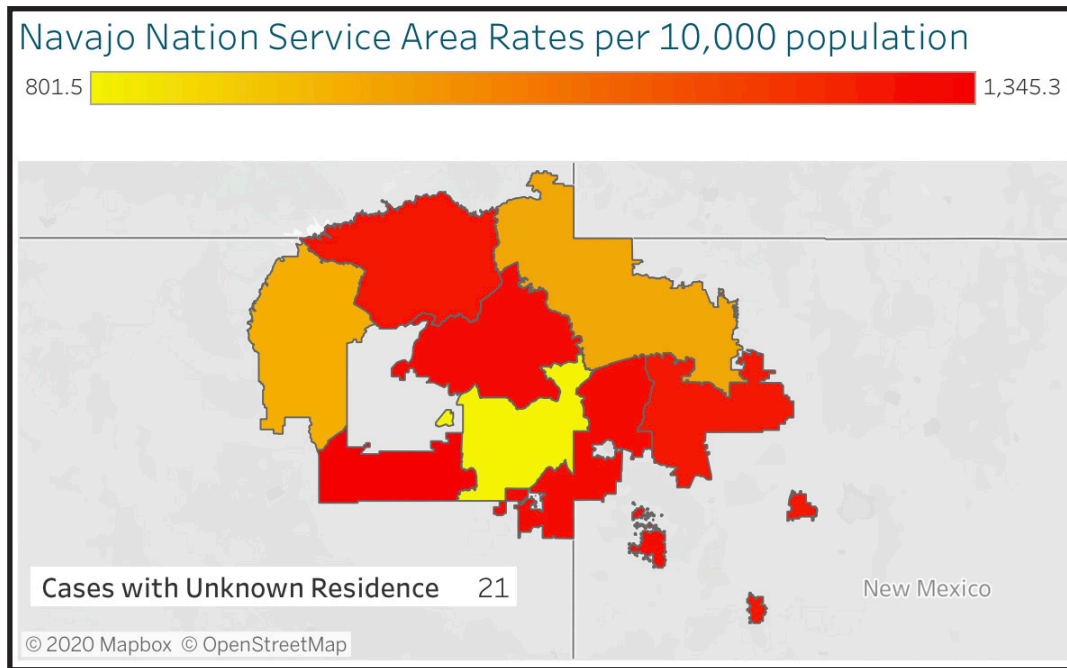


PHOTO: A screenshot of the Navajo Nation Covid-19 dashboard website showing a heat map for confirmed cases for service units December 7, 2020. The website is accessible at: <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/Data>.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation’s update to coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic situation report from the Health Command Operations Center (HCOC) for December 7, 2020 included data for testing, results, recoveries and mortalities related to Covid-19 in and around the Navajo Nation.

The increase of 213 new cases with 35 cases in delayed reporting brings the total confirmed positive cases on the Navajo Nation to 18,163. The total number of mortalities related to Covid-19 on the Navajo Nation increased by 15, totaling 682 reported deaths since March. The report included 10,045 recovered cases, an increase of 212 recoveries since yesterday. A total 172,712 Covid-19 tests have been administered with 143,579 tests that were returned with negative results.

“Covid-19 continues to put pressure on the Navajo Nation’s health care resources, which means the Navajo people need to be even more vigilant in wearing face coverings in public, social distancing, responding to contact tracers and increasing the number of times washing hands and sanitizing surfaces take place throughout the day. Everyone knows what needs to be done, and we’re certain that by paying attention to who you come into contact with and keeping your hooghan safe, we can bring our numbers down and minimize the spread of this virus,” said Speaker Seth Damon.

Today, the Law and Order Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council heard from the Division of Public Safety (DPS) on efforts to maintain law enforcement services throughout the pandemic. Although

resources continue to be prioritized for emergency responses, DPS is continuing to inform the public of lockdown measures through road checkpoints and similar initiatives.

Navajo Nation Chief of Police Phillip Francisco reported on the changes the Police Department has implemented geared towards staff health and safety since the beginning of the Covid-19. "We've modified some of our buildings, we've staggered our work schedules, our work spaces. We have mandatory testing, and we have testing available for our officers and our staff," said Francisco.

Francisco also urged local chapter and community leaders to participate in the Covid-19 checkpoints put on alongside law enforcement. Although DUI checkpoints require police officers, the Covid-19 checkpoints can utilize civilian volunteers to help hand out information and to encourage citizens to stay home. "If you have people to come to these checkpoints, it helps out," said Francisco.

More information on the Navajo Nation Police Department can be found online at: <http://www.npd.navajo-nsn.gov/>.

More Data

Navajo Nation cases by Service Unit

Chinle Service Unit:	3,608
Gallup Service Unit:	3,022
Shiprock Service Unit:	2,888
Crownpoint Service Unit:	1,969
Ft. Defiance Service Unit:	1,881
Kayenta Service Unit:	1,857
Tuba City Service Unit:	1,828
Winslow Service Unit:	1,089
Surrounding border towns:	5,004

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.

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 and requests 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.

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