



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 17, 2020

**85 new cases of COVID-19 and three more deaths reported  
as the Navajo Nation's 57-hour weekend curfew takes effect**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The total number of positive tests for COVID-19 has reached 1,127 for the Navajo Nation as of Friday – an increase of 85 positive cases since Thursday, according to the Navajo Department of Health and Navajo Area Indian Health Service, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center. The report also includes 3,673 total negative test results as of Friday. There is now a total of 44 confirmed deaths related to COVID-19.

The 1,127 confirmed positive cases include the following counties:

- Navajo County, AZ: 316
- Apache County, AZ: 168
- Coconino County, AZ: 203
- McKinley County, NM: 235
- San Juan County, NM: 153
- Cibola County, NM: 13
- San Juan County, UT: 14
- Socorro County, NM: 13
- Sandoval County, NM: 12

The Navajo Nation's 57-hour weekend curfew is set to take effect at 8:00 p.m. on Friday until Monday, April 20 at 5:00 a.m. (MDT). The Navajo Police Department will once again enforce the weekend curfew with road checkpoints. They will also issue citations for curfew violators, which may include up to \$1,000 in fines and/or 30 days in jail.

"Everyone should have everything they need for the weekend, so we should not have anyone traveling this weekend except for essential workers and in cases of emergencies. I said this before, we are strong and resilient just like our ancestors. Our people have overcome so much, much worse than COVID-19 and we need to honor and remember all of the sacrifices that our ancestors made for us to be here today. Let's not be careless, let's not be selfish, but let's rise up and beat this virus together," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Last weekend, the Navajo Police Department issued approximately 119 citations for individuals who violated the curfew. Stricter provisions are now in place for businesses as well.

“There are plenty of household tasks, hobbies, and other productive things we can do at home. Let’s look at this in a positive light and spend time with our loved ones while using precautions and practicing social distancing as much as possible. To our Navajo people and all those on the frontline, you are in our prayers every day as we fight together. We will overcome this pandemic, but the sooner we come together and stay home as much as possible the sooner we will beat COVID-19,” said Vice President Lizer.

For more information including reports, helpful prevention tips, and more resources, please visit the Navajo Department of Health’s COVID-19 website at <http://www.ndoh.navajonnsn.gov/COVID-19>. To contact the main Navajo Health Command Operations Center, please call [\(928\) 871-7014](tel:9288717014).

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

**April 16, 2020**

**Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-006**

**Public Health Emergency Order Extending the 57-Hour Weekend Curfew for Two Additional Weekends in April and Closing Essential Businesses During Weekend Curfews Due to Community Spread of COVID-19**

- 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. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-006 is to further restrict the movement of individuals on the Nation for a 57-hour period, and implement a full weekend curfew from April 17, 2020 to April 20, 2020 and April 24 to April 27 starting at 8:00 P.M. MDT on Friday and ending at 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday.

**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. All individuals on the Nation shall comply with the **Weekend Curfews** across the Nation from 8:00 P.M. MDT on Friday, April 17, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, April 20, 2020 and from 8:00 P.M. MDT on Friday, April 24, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, April 27, 2020. All individuals shall remain at home during curfew hours except in the event of an emergency and as described below.
  1. This curfew does not apply to Essential Employees reporting to or from duty at an Essential Business that is exempted from closure below, provided that the employee must have official identification or a letter of designation from their employer on official letterhead which includes a contact name and number for verification.
  2. Individuals are still permitted to tend to livestock during Weekend Curfews. However, plan ahead to purchase hay and feed, if needed, as vendors will not be permitted operate to the public during the Weekend Curfew.
  3. Individuals are not required to remain indoors during Weekend Curfews, but must limit movement beyond the immediate area of a residence or home site.

4. Additional Weekend Curfews may follow.

B. **Essential Businesses**, including restaurants and drive-through food establishments shall be closed. Hay and other roadside vendors must cease operations for the duration of the Curfew Weekend. This closure and cease operations requirement does not apply to Healthcare Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, or Essential Infrastructure Activities (as those terms are defined below). This closure requirement does not apply to gas stations and grocery stores, provided they comply with the following requirements:

1. Gas stations may operate on a limited basis to meet the needs of essential employees reporting to or from duty and people traveling for emergencies only.
  - i. Operating hours may only be between 7:00 A.M. MDT and 5:00 P.M. MDT only during curfew weekends.
  - ii. No more than 5 customers at a time may be in any retail area, and no more than one (1) person per family with exception of one accompanying caregiver for an elderly or disabled shopper.
2. Grocery stores may operate on a limited basis for essential employees reporting to or from duty and for people with emergency needs only.
  - i. Operating hours shall be between 7:00 A.M. MDT and 3:00 P.M. MDT only during curfew weekends.
  - ii. No more than 10 customers at a time may be in a grocery store, and no more than one (1) person per family with exception of an accompanying caregiver as described above.
3. Gas stations and grocery stores shall:
  - i. Monitor customer entry to maintain occupancy limits.
  - ii. Maintain Social Distancing Requirements.
  - iii. Regularly disinfect all high-touch surfaces and thoroughly clean retail store areas and employee work areas.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the March 20, 2020 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003 Stay at Home (Shelter In Place) Order is still in full effect.

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

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that it is greatly advised that the public take the following preventive precautions:

**1. All persons on the Navajo Nation are required to stay home during the curfew and leave their residence or home site areas only in the event of an emergency or to work as an essential employee.**

2. Plan and act ahead: buy or get supplies you might need, including medical supplies, food, water, animal feed, firewood or coal, and fuel for your vehicles, during the week when there is not a curfew.

3. Socially distance yourselves. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Keep at least six feet from others in public.

4. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

5. To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, etc. Use a barrier such as a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hands or fingers if you must touch something.

6. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, mouth. Cover your mouth and nose with the best-available protective material, including masks, when in public.

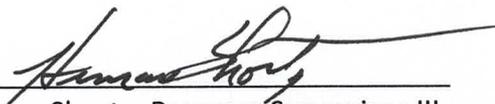
7. Clean and disinfect your home and vehicles to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, steering wheels, door handles, gearshifts, and cell phones).

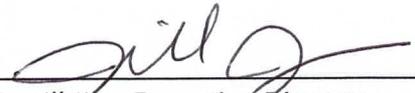
8. Avoid all public gatherings.

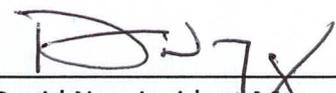
9. Avoid all non-emergency travel.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that this Order shall take effect Friday, April 17, 2020 at 8:00 P.M. MDT and shall remain in effect until Monday, April 27, 2020 at 5:00 A.M. MDT

**ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2020.**

  
Herman Shorty, Program Supervisor III  
Navajo Office of Environmental Health &  
Protection Program  
Navajo Department of Health

  
Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director  
Navajo Department of Health

  
David Nez, Incident Manager  
Dikos Ntsaaígíí – 19  
Health Command Center  
Navajo Department of Health

## Definitions

**Emergency:** a serious, unexpected, or dangerous situation requiring immediate action, including a medical condition that requires immediate treatment.

**Essential Activities:** (1) activities or tasks essential to health and safety such as obtaining critical medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional for an imminent health need (including the needs of pets and livestock); (2) obtaining necessary services or supplies such as canned food, dry goods, produce, pet supplies, meat, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residential living, provided that when people need to leave their home to obtain such necessities, they should do so in limited numbers and should at all times adhere to Social Distancing Standards; and (3) engaging in daytime outdoor activity such as walking, hiking, or running, provided individuals adhere to social distancing requirements. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020).

**Essential Businesses:** Healthcare Operation, Essential Governmental Functions and Essential Infrastructure (e.g., courts of law, medical providers for urgent care, public utilities, and critical school operations such as nutrition programs). (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020 and expanded through Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020 to include grocery stores, food banks, convenience stores, hardware stores and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries and non-grocery products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences, among other things.)

**Essential Employees:** Those employees identified by Essential Businesses deemed to be necessary to the continued operation of those Essential Businesses.

**Essential Governmental Functions:** all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020).

**Essential infrastructure:** Public works construction, construction of housing, water, sewer, gas, electrical, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services). (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020).

**Social Distancing Requirements:** Limiting contact of people within 6 feet from each other. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020).

**Social Distancing Standards:** Not shaking hands, standing at least six feet away from other people, avoiding crowds, etc. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020).