



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2020

## Navajo Nation to initiate 57-hour weekend curfew to fight COVID-19

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On April 5, the Navajo Department of Health issued Public Health Emergency Order 2020-005, implementing a 57-hour weekend curfew beginning at 8:00 p.m. (MDT) on Friday, April 10, to 5:00 a.m. (MDT) on Monday, April 13 to slow the spread of the Dikos Nstaaígíí-19 (COVID-19) on the Navajo Nation.

“The public health emergency order is intended to restrict the movement of Navajo citizens during the full weekend curfew. We are seeing way too many people contract the virus and we need to step up measures to begin to reduce the numbers. Our health care system cannot manage the growing numbers of patients and those who need to be admitted. We continue to receive reports of people on the road and traveling with families to nearby border towns,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

The emergency order states that all individuals on the Navajo Nation shall comply with the weekend curfew, and failure to comply will result in a citation and fine. In addition, the Navajo Police Department will increase checkpoints along roadways across the Navajo Nation to further enforce the “Stay at Home Order” and curfew.

“The weekend curfew helps to combat the virus. We need to take it upon ourselves to protect our families, our grandparents, and our vulnerable people. Their immune system is not as strong as most young people and this measure helps to protect them. The latest virus projections show that we have not reached the peak, or the highest number of cases, so please stay home and abide by the curfew order,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

The emergency order further states that individuals are to remain home during the curfew, except in the event of an emergency. The weekend curfew does not apply to essential employees, including medical providers and first responders, which are required to show proof of official identification or letter of designation from their essential business employer on official letterhead. Other essential businesses are encouraged to limit operations during the curfew.

On April 1, the Nez-Lizer Administration led “Operation First of the Month” to allow for special store hours at Bashas’ Diné Market locations for Navajo elders to shop for essential items, which will allow the elderly population to remain home during this weekend’s curfew.

During a live town hall on Sunday, President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer continued to urge and plea for Navajo citizens to stay home and to use protective masks, including homemade masks, and protective gloves, when they leave their homes to slow the spread of the virus.

The Navajo Nation’s daily curfew remains in effect from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. The curfew does not apply to essential employees reporting to or from duty, with official identification and/or a letter of designation from their essential business employer on official letterhead, which includes a contact for verification.

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.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>. To contact the main Navajo Health Command Operations Center, please call [\(928\) 871-7014](tel:(928)871-7014).

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

**April 5, 2020**

**Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-005**

**Public Health Emergency Order Implementing a 57-Hour Weekend Curfew from 8:00 P.M. on Friday, April 10 to 5:00 A.M. on Monday April 13 Due to the 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 the escalating incidents and community spread of COVID-19 on the Nation.
  
- II. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-005 is to further restrict the movement of individuals on the Nation for a 57-hour period, and implement a full weekend curfew from April 10, 2020 to April 12, 2020, starting at 8:00 P.M. on Friday to 5:00 A.M. on Monday.
  - a. All provisions of this Order are to be interpreted to effectuate this intent.
  
  - b. Failure to comply with any of provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health.

**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 a **Weekend Curfew** across the Nation from 8:00 P.M. on Friday, April 10, 2020 to 5 A.M. on Monday, April 12, 2020. All individuals shall be at home during curfew hours except in the event of an emergency.
  1. This curfew does not apply to Essential Employees reporting to or from duty, with official identification and/or a letter of designation from their Essential Business employer on official letterhead which includes a contact for verification.
  
  2. Additional 24-hour or full weekend curfews may follow at the direction of the Health Command Center.
  
- B. **Essential Businesses** should limit operations during the stated curfew the greatest extent possible. This does not apply to Healthcare Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Infrastructure Activities, or Essential Businesses that do not directly serve customers.

**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 home only in the event of an emergency.**

2. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

3. 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.

4. To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking with people, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hands or finger if you must touch something.

5. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.

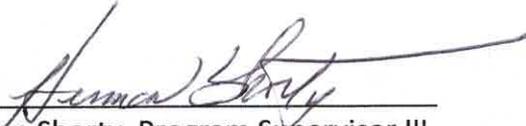
6. Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, and cell phones).

7. Avoid all public gatherings.

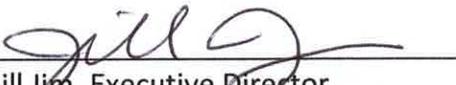
8. Avoid all non-emergency travel.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that this Order shall take effect Friday, April 10, 2020 at 8:00 P.M. and shall remain in effect until Monday, April 12, 2020 at 5:00 A. M.

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2020.



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Navajo Office of Environmental Health &  
Protection Program  
Navajo Department of Health



Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director  
Navajo Department of Health



David Nez, Incident Manager  
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## Definitions

**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, non-grocery products, wholesale and 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:** means 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 several feet away from other people, avoiding crowds, etc.) (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020).