



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nez-Lizer set to lead “Operation First of the Month” to help protect elders from COVID-19

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer, with coordination from the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development and the Navajo Nation Shopping Centers, Inc., announced that all Bashas’ Diné Markets on the Navajo Nation will offer special shopping hours from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on May 1, specifically for elders to purchase essential items to help reduce the risk of COVID-19.

The Nez-Lizer Administration will have Executive Directors and staff members at each site to help wipe down shopping carts, and help answer questions and provide guidance to elderly shoppers.

“Operation First of the Month is intended to keep our precious elders safe and close to home while they shop for essentials, such as groceries, household items, and livestock supplies. We thank the Bashas’ owners and management for working together with us again this month to help our Navajo people. The virus is dangerous for our elders and individuals with underlying health conditions. Having our elders shop locally will reduce less travel to border towns and decrease the risk of exposure,” said President Nez.

Bashas' Diné Market locations include:

- Chinle Bashas’
- Dilkon Bashas’
- Kayenta Bashas’
- Piñon Bashas’
- Sanders Bashas’
- Tuba City Bashas’
- Window Rock Bashas’
- Crownpoint Bashas’

Additionally, Navajo Nation Shopping Center, Inc. will be at each location, including Shiprock Shopping Center in Shiprock, N.M., and Window Rock Lowe’s in Window Rock, AZ. Each store location will distribute information on COVID-19 prevention, food distributions, and homemade

mask distribution sites for elders, which is coordinated by the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development, Navajo Nation Shopping Center, Inc., and the Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center. There will also be law enforcement presence to help regulate the flow of traffic. The Navajo Nation Division of Social Service and Department of Health will also provide additional services.

"We commend the Bashas' family and corporation and all the Navajo Executive divisions and departments for working collaboratively to create this opportunity to protect our elders. The opportunity allows elders time to shop for essentials in a comfortable and safe setting," said Vice President Lizer.

Also, consider the following guidelines to shop safely:

- Be prepared and be safe: Prepare a healthy list (fruits, vegetables, meat, cleaning supplies, and household items). Send only one person to shop. Verify local grocery store hours. Take gloves, face masks, and sanitizing wipes/spray in a disposable bag.
- Before you shop: Exit vehicle and put on gloves and face mask. Wipe down shopping cart/basket with sanitizing wipes/spray. Maintain a distance of 6ft from others.
- While you shop: Limit time in store. Buy only what you need. Shop with sight not touch. Avoid touching unnecessary surfaces (face, keys, phone, or other items).
- After you shop: Before entering vehicle: remove gloves, place in bag and dispose. Use hand sanitizer immediately after. When home, properly wash hands. Rinse all produce. Wipe down food items with soap and water or sanitizing wipes.

"We strongly encourage people to stay home and stay safe. One family member should be doing the shopping and conducting essential errands. This is for the safety and well-being of all Navajo citizens, and together we can combat the spread of the coronavirus if we comply with the Public Health Orders," added President Nez.

For more information regarding the First of the Month Shopping, please contact the Division of Economic Development at [\(928\) 979-5208](tel:9289795208) or the Office of the President and Vice President at [\(928\) 871-7000](tel:9288717000).

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