



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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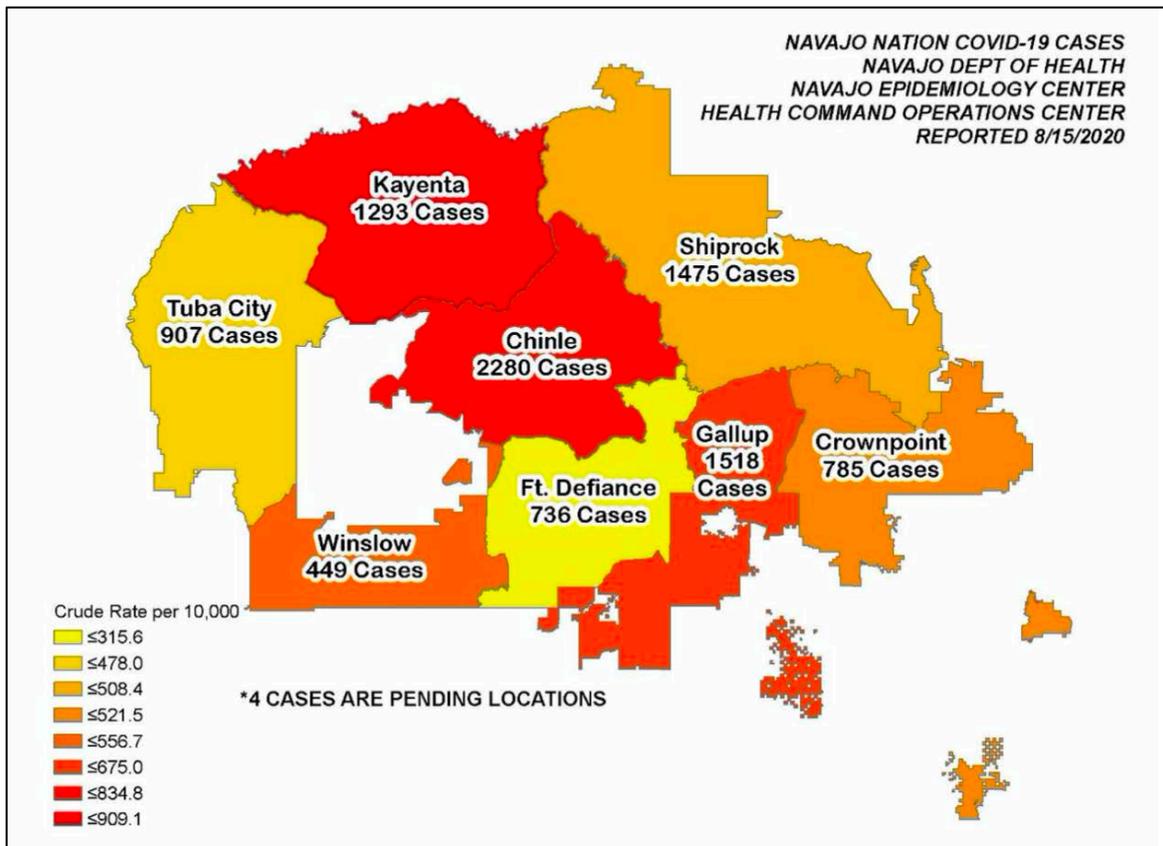
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 16, 2020

6,970 recoveries, 24 new cases, two more deaths related to COVID-19 as Navajo Nation implements “Safe at Home” Public Health Order



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Sunday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 24 new positive COVID-19 cases for the Navajo Nation and no recent deaths. The total number of deaths has reached 480 as of Sunday. 6,970 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 and 88,461 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The total number of COVID-19 positive cases is 9,447 and negative tests total 74,260.

Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive cases by Service Unit:

- Chinle Service Unit: 2,280
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 785
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 736
- Gallup Service Unit: 1,518
- Kayenta Service Unit: 1,293
- Shiprock Service Unit: 1,475
- Tuba City Service Unit: 907
- Winslow Service Unit: 449

* Four residences with COVID-19 positive cases are not specific enough to place them accurately in a Service Unit.

On Sunday, the Navajo Department of Health issued Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-021, rescinding the "Stay at Home" (shelter-in-place) order and implementing a "Safe at Home" public health order. The order further reinstates the requirements for "drive-in" gatherings, the daily and weekend curfew hours, from 9:00 p.m. (MDT) to 5:00 a.m. (MDT). It also states that the Navajo Nation's roads remain closed to visitors and tourists for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

"The public health order does not require individuals to stay home, but we continue to encourage Navajo residents to limit their travels and leave their place of residence only for emergencies or perform essential activities and errands. We all play an important role in keeping the number of COVID-19 cases low. As the Navajo Nation is taking small and responsible steps to reopen the economy in a phased approach that is data-driven, it is important to stay alert and prepared to protect ourselves and others," said President Jonathan Nez.

The order states that "Drive-in" gatherings include parking lots with hotspot areas, religious services, funeral services, graduations, and other events, with the following guidelines:

- Participants must remain in their vehicles for the entire event
- All vehicle occupants must be from the same household
- Participants must maintain a six-foot distance from other vehicles
- Organizers and participants must wear face masks
- No more than 10 people in public restrooms
- Ensure access to handwashing station, sanitizers, or gloves
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces

"The Public Health Orders continue to combat COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation and prevent potential spikes in new cases. There are many recoveries but must still practice preventative measures, such as planning, wearing face masks, washing our hands, maintaining a distance of six feet from others, and cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces. We must not let our guard down and protect each other," said Vice President Myron Lizer.

For more information, including helpful prevention tips, and resources to help stop the spread of COVID-19, visit the Navajo Department of Health's COVID-19 website at <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>. For COVID-19 related questions and information, call [\(928\) 871-7014](tel:9288717014).

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

August 16, 2020

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-021

**Rescinding the Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Public Health Emergency Orders
and Implementing a “Safer at Home” Public Health Emergency Order,
Restating the Requirements for “Drive-in” Gatherings, Restating the daily and
weekend curfew hours, and Reminding Visitors and Tourists Not to Travel to the
Navajo Nation**

- I. Paragraphs I – III from Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 are included with this Public Health Order, addressing the various Navajo Nation (Nation) authorities related to the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- II. A Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Order has been in effect for all residents of the Nation, requiring individuals to limit their movement within and outside of their immediate communities and to limit contact with individuals who are not in their immediate household. (Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003 (March 20, 2020), extended by Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 (March 29, 2020), and Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-017 (June 5, 2020)). Under the Nation’s Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Order, individuals could leave their place of residence only to perform "Essential Activities" which primarily include activities and tasks essential to health, safety, and welfare. Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003 (March 20, 2020) directed Visitors to the Nation to return home immediately and Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-017 (June 5, 2020) advised Visitors to refrain from traveling to the Navajo Nation, based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that travel increases the chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19. That Order also advised that public gatherings in excess of 5 people should be avoided.
- III. Individuals on the Navajo Nation have played an important role in flattening the curve and slowing the spread of COVID-19 on the Nation. As the Navajo Nation is taking small and responsible steps to reopen the economy in a phased approach that is based on facts, science, and data, it is important that individuals remain diligent in keeping themselves and their households safe by practicing everyday preventive actions including wearing a mask in public, practicing social (physical) distancing, disinfecting high touch surfaces, avoiding unnecessary travel, avoiding unnecessary public gatherings, and washing hands for 20 seconds. Under this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-021, individuals are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility but are not ordered to stay home.
- IV. The safest place to be is at home. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “COVID-19 cases and deaths have been reported in all 50 states, and the

situation is constantly changing. Because travel increases your chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19, **staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick.**”

- V. “Drive-in” gatherings of any size are permitted if the organizers and participants adhere to the requirements herein that include participants remaining in their vehicles for the entire event.
- VI. The Nation roads remain closed to Visitors for the duration of the declared public health emergency, and Visitors are advised to refrain from traveling to the Navajo Nation at this time. Tribal parks will not be accessible to Visitors and Tourists during this time. With the phased reopening of the Navajo Nation, Visitors will be informed by Public Health Emergency Order when the Navajo Nation can safely welcome Visitors back to the Nation.
- VII. Curfew hours and any weekend lockdown hours remain in effect.
- VIII. All provisions of this Order are to be interpreted to effectuate this intent. 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. The Navajo Nation’s Shelter in Place (Stay at Home) Public Health Emergency Order is rescinded and replaced with a Safer at Home Public Health Emergency Order. Under the Safer at Home Order, individuals are required to exercise personal responsibility to remain safe but are not ordered to stay home.
 - 1. Individuals must continue to exercise caution when engaging in public activities and practice everyday preventive actions, which include: wearing a mask in public, practicing social (physical) distancing, disinfecting high touch surfaces, avoiding unnecessary travel, avoiding unnecessary public gatherings, and washing hands for 20 seconds.
 - 2. Individuals with COVID-19, or who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, are required to stay home and away from other people.
- B. “Drive-in” gatherings of any size can be conducted during non-curfew hours, consistent with the current Public Health Emergency Orders (as long as those Orders are in effect), where event organizers ensure the following requirements are in place:

1. Outdoor “drive-in” gatherings only where people from the same vehicle remain in their vehicles.
2. Vehicles are parked at least six (6) feet from other vehicles, in all four directions.
3. Organizers and participants wear masks.
4. Gathering is conducted in a no-contact manner and maintaining social distancing standards.

Event organizers are also required to:

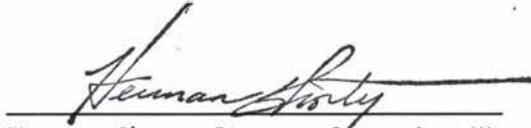
1. Limit the number of people in a restroom to no more than ten (10) people.
 2. Ensure that people have access to a handwashing station, sanitizer, or gloves.
 3. Ensure that high-touch surfaces are regularly disinfected.
- C. Tourists and Visitors to the Navajo Nation must return home immediately, consistent with Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003 (March 20, 2020). The Nation’s roads remain closed to visitors and tourists for the duration of the declared public health emergency, and visitors and tourists are required to refrain from traveling to the Navajo Nation at this time.
- D. The provisions of Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-019 (August 6, 2020) remain in effect regarding daily curfew hours from 9:00 P.M. MDT to 5:00 A.M. MDT and the 32-Hour time periods for the partial lockdown weekends of August 22-24, 2020, and August 29-31, 2020. All individuals shall be at home during curfew hours, except in the event of an emergency.

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

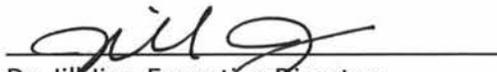
1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Keep at least six (6) feet from others in public.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
3. To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – door handles, handrails, etc. Use a barrier such as a tissue or gloves to cover your hands or fingers if you must touch something.
4. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, mouth. Cover your mouth and nose with a masks when in public.
5. 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).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take effect Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:00 A.M. MDT, and shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Health Command Center.

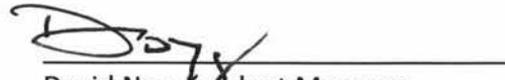
ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 16th DAY OF August, 2020.



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Navajo Office of Environmental Health &
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Dr. Jih Jim, Executive Director
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Definitions

Drive-In means attending a gathering without leaving one's car. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-017 (June 5, 2020).

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

Gathering: means any grouping together of individuals in a single connected location. (From Public Health Emergency Order dated March 18, 2020). According to the CDC, "A gathering refers to a planned or spontaneous event, indoors or outdoors, with a small number of people participating or a large number of people in attendance such as a community event or gathering, concert, festival, conference, parade, wedding, or sporting event." The CDC provides as follows:

The more people an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.

The higher the level of community transmission in the area that the gathering is being held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spreading during a gathering.

The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:

Lowest risk: Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.

More risk: Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).

Higher risk: Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.

Highest risk: Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

Social Distancing Requirements: Limiting proximity of people to 6 feet from any other person. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020). Also known as Physical Distancing.

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