



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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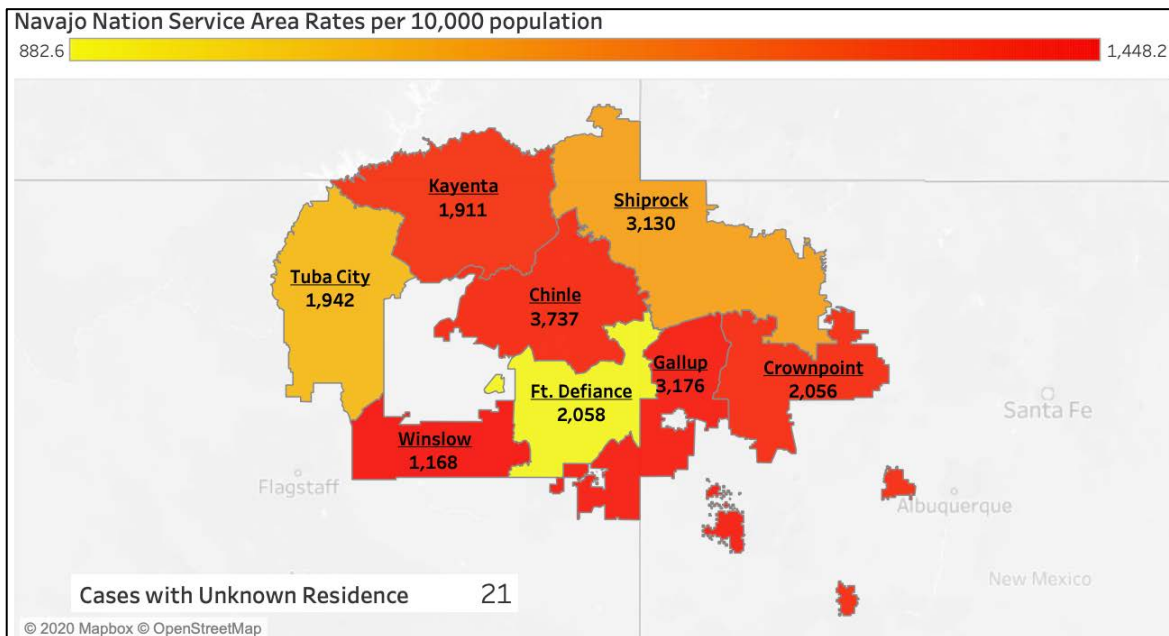
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**231 new cases, 10,313 recoveries, and 12 more deaths
related to COVID-19 as 57-hour weekend lockdown goes into effect**



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Friday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 231 new COVID-19 positive cases for the Navajo Nation and 12 more deaths. The total number of deaths is now 711 as of Friday. Reports indicate that 10,313 individuals have recovered from COVID-19, and 180,677 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 19,199, including 25 delayed reported cases.

Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive cases by Service Unit:

- Chinle Service Unit: 3,737
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 2,056
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 2,058
- Gallup Service Unit: 3,176
- Kayenta Service Unit: 1,911
- Shiprock Service Unit: 3,130

- Tuba City Service Unit: 1,942
- Winslow Service Unit: 1,168

* 25 residences with COVID-19 positive cases are not specific enough to place them accurately in a Service Unit. On Thursday, the state of Utah reported 2,183 cases, Arizona reported 6,983 new cases, and New Mexico reported 1,849.

The Navajo Nation's 57-hour weekend lockdown will begin on Friday, Dec. 11 at 8:00 p.m. (MST) and last until 5:00 a.m. (MST) on Monday, Dec. 14. All residents of the Navajo Nation are required to remain home during the weekend lockdown with the exception of essential workers who are required to report to work. All businesses on the Navajo Nation are required to remain closed during the 57-hour weekend lockdown.

"The Food and Drug Administration is expected to approve the Pfizer vaccine for COVID-19 this weekend, which will begin the process of distributing the vaccine and administering it to healthcare workers and those living in long-term assisted living facilities in accordance with the recommendations of the CDC. We all have to understand that it will be a lengthy process before the vaccine is available to the general public, due to the demand across the entire country and the time it takes to produce and ship the vaccines. Until it is widely available, we have to continue to practice all precautions and to stay home as much as possible," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

The Navajo Health Command Operations Center, Navajo Area IHS, and 638 tribal health facilities continue to offer free COVID-19 testing. The Nez-Lizer Administration encourages testing, especially for those who experience symptoms.

"We have to stay the course until the vaccines are available to the general public. We all have to help our health care workers by doing everything we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our households and our communities. I believe we are beginning to see the light at the end of this dark tunnel with the pending approval of two vaccines, but it will take time. Please continue to pray and remain strong," 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: <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>. For COVID-19 related questions and information, call (928) 871-7014.

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