



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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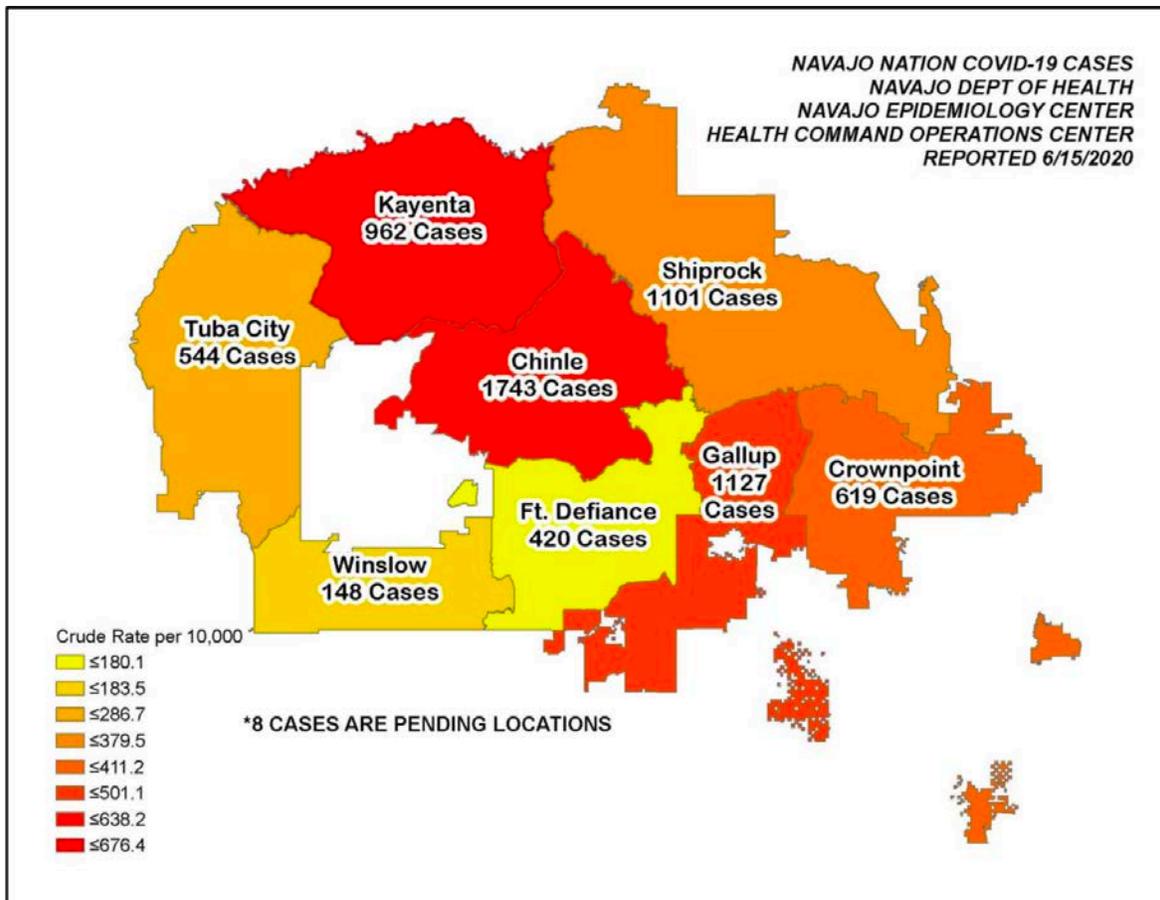
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2020

3,277 recoveries, 39 new cases of COVID-19, and eight more deaths reported as Navajo Nation issues two 57-hour weekend lockdowns



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 39 new cases of COVID-19 for the Navajo Nation and eight new deaths. The total number of deaths is 319 as of Tuesday. Reports from 11 health care facilities indicate that approximately 3,277 individuals have recovered from COVID-19, with one health care facility report still pending. 45,499 people have

been tested for COVID-19. The total number of positive COVID-19 cases for the Navajo Nation has reached 6,672.

Navajo Nation cases by Service Unit:

- Chinle Service Unit: 1,743
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 619
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 420
- Gallup Service Unit: 1,127
- Kayenta Service Unit: 962
- Shiprock Service Unit: 1,101
- Tuba City Service Unit: 544
- Winslow Service Unit: 148

* Eight residences are not specific enough to place them accurately in a Service Unit

"We have to keep doing what we're doing by wearing protective masks, complying with the weekend lockdowns, staying home, and maintaining a six-foot distance from others. Now is not the time to back down. Let's not back down! Wear your masks, practice social distancing, and wash your hands," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

On Tuesday, the Navajo Nation issued Public Health Emergency Order 2020-015, ordering Public for a 57-hour weekend lockdown beginning on Friday, June 19, at 8:00 p.m. until Monday, June 22, at 5:00 a.m. (MDT), and a travel advisory outside the Navajo Nation due to the increased of COVID-19 cases in areas surrounding the Navajo Nation. The order also includes a second lockdown beginning on Friday, June 26, at 8:00 p.m. until Monday, June 29, at 5:00 a.m. (MDT).

"With the state of Arizona relaxing its precautions and allowing its stay-at-home order to expire, the metropolitan areas are seeing dramatic increases of COVID-19 cases. I cannot stress enough to our Navajo people the importance of staying home. It only takes a few people traveling to Phoenix or other hotspots to catch the virus and start another wave of new cases here on the Navajo Nation. If we stay at home and limit all travels, we can beat this virus," added President Nez.

All individuals should remain home during the lockdown hours except in the event of an emergency. The daily curfew exempts essential employees with official documentation or a letter of designation from their employer with official letterhead and contact information for verification. The weekend lockdown also requires the closure of all businesses on the Navajo Nation.

"For the safety of all citizens, all businesses will be closed during the 57-hour lockdown. Planning and preparing for the lockdown should be considered by all individuals. Ask a family member if they need help with errands, chores, or essential shopping. Ensure your entire family has enough food and water for the entire lockdown. Continue to remind your family members to stay home.

When you are in public, wear a face mask and stay six feet away from others to minimize the potential spread of the virus," said Vice President Myron Lizer.

During the Office of the President and Vice President Facebook live Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, President Nez and Vice President Lizer also launched "The Navajo Nation #DontBackDown" campaign to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and encouraged individuals to join the fight against the virus.

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 primary 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**

June 16, 2020

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-015

Public Health Emergency Order Locking Down the Navajo Nation for 57-Hours (for the Next Two Weekends) and Travel Advisory Outside of the Navajo Nation Due to the Increased in Positive Cases in Areas Surrounding the Navajo Nation

- 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. 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 Orders No. 2020-003 (March 20, 2020) and No. 2020-004 (March 29, 2020)). Under that Order, individuals can leave their place of residence only to perform “Essential Activities” which primarily include activities and tasks essential to health, safety, and welfare. That Order also advised that public gatherings in excess of five (5) people should be avoided. Under Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-014 (“Safer at Home”), individuals are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility but are not ordered to stay home. That Order also permitted “Drive-in” Gatherings during non-curfew hours.
- III. Regular Curfew hours are from 8:00 P.M. MDT to 5:00 A.M. MDT daily, pursuant to Public Health Emergency Orders No. 2020-004 (March 29, 2020) and No. 2020-013 (June 5, 2020).
- IV. Consecutive 57-Hour Weekend Curfews were implemented in April 2020 and May 2020, pursuant to Public Health Emergency Orders No. 2020-005 (April 5, 2020), No. 2020-006 (April 16, 2020), No. 2020-008 (April 29, 2020). Consecutive 57-hour weekend lockdowns were implemented in May 2020, pursuant to Public Health Emergency Orders No. 2020-010 (May 14, 2020), No. 2020-011 (May 19, 2020), and No. 2020-012 (May 27, 2020). The intent and purpose of those orders and the weekend curfews and lockdowns was limit contact and to restrict movement of individuals on the Nation.
- V. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-015 is to limit contact and restrict the movement of individuals on the Nation for two 57-hour periods, and to implement **full 57-Hour Weekend Lockdowns from June 19, 2020 to June 22,**

2020; and from June 26, 2020 to June 29, 2020, starting at 8:00 P.M. MDT on Friday and ending at 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday. Additional lockdowns may follow.

- VI. 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.**”
- VII. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)” and **“the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.”**

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 Lockdowns** across the Nation from 8:00 P.M. MDT on Friday, June 19, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, June 22, 2020; and from 8:00 P.M. MDT on Friday, June 26, 2020 to 5:00 a.m. MDT on Monday, June 29, 2020. All individuals shall remain at home during lockdown hours except in the event of an emergency or as described below:
 - 1. Individuals are still permitted to cultivate food (i.e. farming) and tend to livestock. However, plan ahead to purchase hay and feed, if needed.
 - 2. Individuals are not required to remain indoors during Weekend Lockdown. Outdoor activity is encouraged and individuals may leave their immediate residence or home site area for exercise such as running or hiking, so long as movement is restricted to no more than five (5) miles from one’s home.
 - 3. **Essential Businesses**, including *all stores, gas stations*, restaurants and drive-through food establishments shall be closed. Hay and all other vendors must cease operations for the duration of the Weekend Lockdown. This closure and cease operations requirement does not apply to Healthcare Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, or Essential Infrastructure (as those terms are defined below), or to Food Cultivation operations. Essential Employees reporting to or from duty are exempted from the Weekend Lockdown but must carry official identification or a letter of designation from their employer on official letterhead which includes a contact name and number for verification.
 - 4. Voting sites located on the Navajo Nation may remain open for in-person voting, and, if necessary, registered voters eligible to vote at such voting sites are allowed to vote without penalty, consistent with Public Health Emergency Order 2020-009 (May 12, 2020). Voters are advised to vote in person only if necessary, and to take

all preventive precautions before, during, and after voting, including leaving behind anyone not voting. Disabled voters and voters whose first language is Navajo may bring another person to assist the voter.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that it is greatly advised that the public avoid travel off the Navajo Nation, as it increases the chances of getting infected and further spreading COVID-19 on the Nation. Travel off the Navajo Nation to areas where COVID-19 is spreading puts people who are traveling at a heightened risk. With the rapid rise of cases in areas surrounding the Navajo Nation, staying home is the best way to protect people on the Navajo Nation from further spreading COVID-19.

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 lockdown and leave their residence or home site areas only in the event of an emergency, to work as an essential employee, to vote, to cultivate food or tend to livestock, and to exercise, as described above.

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.

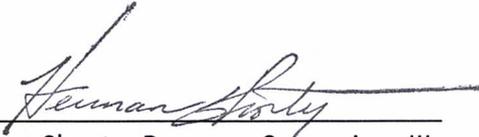
6. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, mouth. Cover your mouth and nose with the best-available protective material, including masks, when in public.

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 non-emergency travel.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take effect Friday, June 19, 2020 at 8:00 P.M. MDT, and shall remain in effect until Monday, June 29, 2020 at 5:00 A.M. MDT.

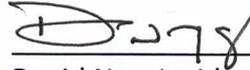
ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 16th DAY OF JUNE, 2020.



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

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

Essential Businesses: Healthcare Operation, Essential Governmental Functions, 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 food cultivation (including farming and livestock), 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).

Healthcare Operations: Government or private clinics, hospitals, and programs providing medical diagnosis, treatment, or emergency response. Does not include illegal commercial production, agricultural, retail, or wholesale operations, even if health-related in some way.

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).