



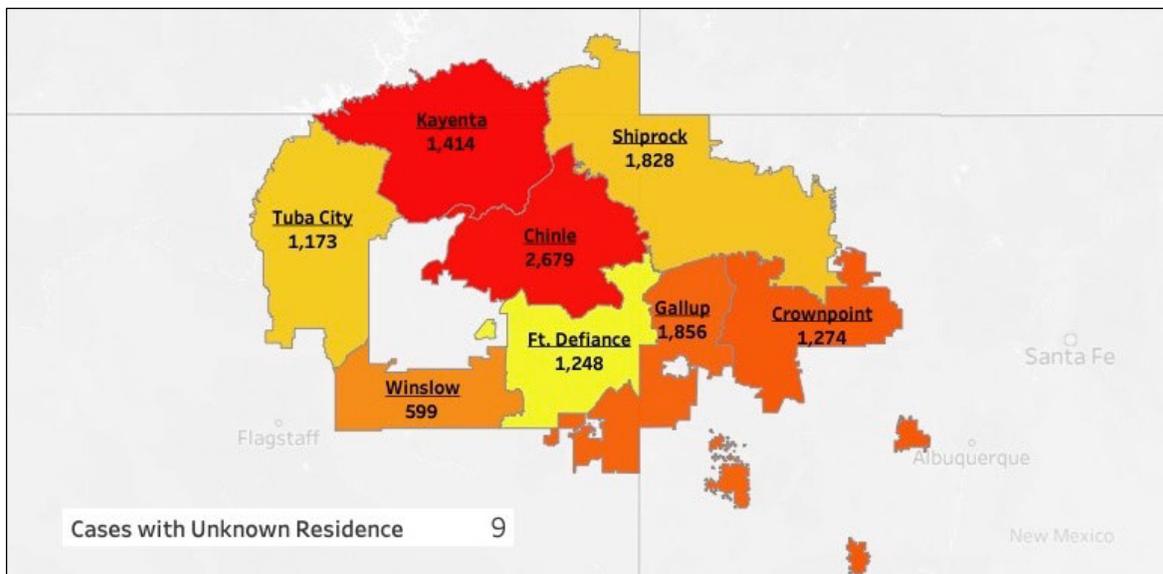
The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2020

131 new cases, 7,613 recoveries, and no recent deaths related to COVID-19 as new provisions issued with 56-hour weekend curfews



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 131 new COVID-19 positive cases for the Navajo Nation and no recent deaths. The total number of deaths remains 586 as previously reported on Tuesday. Reports indicate that 7,613 individuals have recovered from COVID-19, and 127,901 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 12,080, including one delayed reported case.

Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive cases by Service Unit:

- Chinle Service Unit: 2,679
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 1,274
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 1,248
- Gallup Service Unit: 1,856
- Kayenta Service Unit: 1,414
- Shiprock Service Unit: 1,828
- Tuba City Service Unit: 1,173

· Winslow Service Unit: 599

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

The Navajo Department of Health issued Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-028 on Tuesday, which implements two 56-hour weekend curfews beginning at 9:00 p.m. (MST) on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020 until 5:00 a.m. (MST) on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020, and the same time periods for Nov. 13-16, 2020, due to the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 in 29 communities on the Navajo Nation. The increase in the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 in certain communities is largely due to travel off the Navajo Nation and family gatherings. The daily curfew remains in effect from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (MST) on weekdays.

To encourage residents to stay local and stay safe during the weekend curfews, the new public health order allows gas stations, grocery stores, laundromats, and restaurants and food establishments to remain open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. (MST) and 3:00 p.m. (MST) during the 56-hour weekend curfews. These businesses are required to ensure employees and customers wear masks, practice social distancing, disinfect high-touch surfaces, access to hand wash stations, sanitizers and gloves, and limit the number of customers in any enclosed areas. Restaurants and food establishments must operate on a curbside or drive-thru basis only.

“Stay local, stay safe. We understand that some residents are leaving the Navajo Nation during previous weekend lockdowns in order to shop for essential items and to get food. The new provisions in the new public health order allow gas stations, grocery stores, laundromats, and restaurants and food establishments on the Navajo Nation to remain open during certain hours on weekends to allow residents to stay local and stay safe. If you don’t need to purchase essential items or services and if you’re not an essential employee, then you should be at home during the 56-hour weekend curfew. No one should be leaving the Navajo Nation on weekends. Stay home as much as possible, wear a mask, practice social distancing, wash your hands often, and avoid crowds and family gatherings,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Individuals are permitted to conduct farming activities and tend to livestock, however livestock owners must plan ahead to purchase hay and feed – hay vendors will not be allowed to sell during the weekend curfew and daily curfew hours. Residents are also allowed to exercise outdoors within their immediate residential area or home site area. Wood gathering and hauling is allowed with a permit issued by the Navajo Nation Forestry Department. 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.

On Wednesday, the Navajo Department of Health also issued a Health Advisory Notice to warn Navajo Nation residents of the “uncontrolled spread” of COVID-19 in certain communities. The cases reflect dates from October 16 – 29, 2020. The advisory will be in effect until the risk and cases decline. The following communities are identified as areas with uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 as of Wednesday:

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Alamo | Dilkon | Sanostee |
| Aneth | Ganado | Sheepsprings |
| Bird Springs | Indian Wells | Shiprock |
| Bodaway/Gap | Iyanbito | Teesto |
| Cameron | Jeddito | Tohajiilee |
| Casamero Lake | Kaibeto | Tolani Lake |
| Churchrock | Leupp | Tonalea |
| Counselor | Nahatadziil | Torreon |
| Coyote Canyon | Red Mesa | Two Grey Hills |
| Crownpoint | Round Rock | |

On Wednesday, the state of New Mexico reported 1,022 new cases of COVID-19, the state of Arizona reported 814 new cases, and Utah reported 2,110. On Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (MST), the Nez-Lizer Administration will host an online town hall on the Nez-Lizer Facebook page to provide additional updates regarding COVID-19.

“Stay local, stay safe during the weekend curfews to help our Nation to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Now that gas stations, grocery stores, laundromats, and restaurants and food establishments will be open during certain hours on weekends, we should have less of our Navajo people traveling off the Nation. We may not have the variety of options when it comes to shopping and food on our Nation, but we have to do everything we can to keep ourselves safe and healthy. With the rise in COVID-19 cases, we are getting closer and closer to having a public health crisis. Please pray for our people and stay local and stay safe,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

To view Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-028, please visit: <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/PDF/PHE/NDOH%20Public%20Health%20Emergency%20Order%202020-028%20Dikos%20Ntsaaigii-19.pdf>.

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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For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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

November 4, 2020

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-028

Public Health Emergency Order Implementing a 56-Hour Weekend Curfew for the Next Two Weekends in November and Closing Most Essential Businesses During the Weekend Curfews Due to Uncontrolled Community Spread of COVID-19 in 29 Communities on the Navajo Nation

- I. Paragraphs I – IX from Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 (March 29, 2020) are incorporated herein, addressing the various Navajo Nation (Nation) authorities related to the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- II. Regular daily curfew hours continue to be from 9:00 P.M. MST to 5:00 A.M. MST pursuant to Public Health Emergency Order No. 19 (August 6, 2020).
- III. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-028 is to limit the movement of individuals on the Nation to their local communities for a 56-hour period due to uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 in various communities throughout the Navajo Nation, and to implement a full weekend curfew from November 6, 2020 to November 9, 2020 starting at 9:00 P.M. MST on Friday and ending at 5:00 A.M. MST on Monday, and continuing for the same time periods during the weekend of November 13 – 16, 2020.
- IV. The Navajo Nation is currently experiencing its second wave of COVID-19 cases. The number of new cases have been on an upward trajectory during the past 2 (two) months within and surrounding the Navajo Nation, including record high numbers for the United States reported on Sunday, November 1, 2020. The percent of COVID-19 tests which are positive continue to rise and clusters continue to emerge throughout the Navajo Nation and has resulted uncontrolled spread in 29 communities on the Navajo Nation. **Cluster cases are a direct result of family gatherings and off-Reservation travel and have resulted in an uncontrolled spread.**
- V. **Individuals are advised to STAY ON THE NAVAJO NATION and refrain from off-Reservation travel. Individuals are also advised not to gather with anyone outside your immediate household and stay within your local communities.** Clusters have the potential to lead to even more uncontrolled spread throughout the Navajo Nation, which may overwhelm the health care system on the Navajo Nation if not mitigated immediately.

- VI. To mitigate the risk, individuals are advised to stay home (isolate or quarantine) and self-monitor for the next two (2) weeks. Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may be contagious. Isolation separates people who may be sick from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement who are exposed to a contagious disease.
- VII. 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.**”
- VIII. 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.”**
- IX. The Nation’s 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. Tribal parks will not be accessible to Visitors and Tourists during this time. Visitors and Tourists will be informed when the Navajo Nation can safely welcome Visitors back to the Nation.

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 Curfews** across the Nation from 9:00 P.M. MST on Friday, November 6, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MST on Monday, November 9, 2020 and from 9:00 P.M. MST on Friday, November 13, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MST on Monday, November 16, 2020. All individuals shall remain at home during curfew hours except to access essential services, or 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 Curfews. 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. Wood collection and hauling, with an appropriate permit issued by the Navajo Nation Forestry Department, is a permissible activity during the weekend curfew hours, however groups are limited to no more than 5 people, masks are required, maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible, and use hand sanitizer. Coal collection and hauling is also permissible with the same preventive measures.

4. Refrain from gathering with individuals from outside your immediate household.
5. Practice all individual preventative measures including wearing a mask in public, avoid public gatherings, maintain social (physical) distancing, remain in your vehicle for curb-side and drive-through services.
6. Additional Weekend Curfews may follow.
7. The Weekend Curfews does not apply to Essential Employees reporting to or from duty at an Essential Business that is exempted from closure below, provided that the employee must have official identification or a letter of designation from their employer on official letterhead which includes a contact name and number for verification.

B. Essential Businesses shall be closed. Hay and other roadside vendors must cease operations for the duration of the Curfew Weekend. This closure and cease operations requirement does not apply to Healthcare Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, or Essential Infrastructure Activities (as those terms are defined below). **This closure requirement does not apply to gas stations, grocery stores, laundromats, and restaurants and food establishments provided they comply with the following requirements:**

1. Operate only between the hours of 7:00 A.M. MST and 3:00 P.M. MST.
2. Ensure that adequate social distancing is practiced.
3. Ensure that high-touch surfaces are regularly disinfected and thoroughly clean retail store areas and employee work areas.
4. Ensure that employees and customers wear masks.
5. Make efforts to ensure that customers have on-site access to handwashing stations, sanitizer, or gloves.
6. Limit the number of customers in any enclosed area.
7. Restaurants and food establishments must operate on a curb-side or drive-through basis only.

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:

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

1. 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 non-curfew hours.
2. Socially distance yourselves. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Keep at least six feet from others in public.

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 – door handles, handrails, etc. Use a barrier such as a tissue or gloves to cover your hands or fingers if you must touch something.

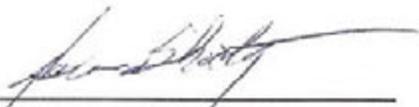
5. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, mouth. Cover your mouth and nose with the best-available protective material, including masks, when in public.

6. 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).

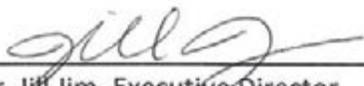
7. Get an influenza (flu) vaccination as soon as possible and when safe to do so, and in accordance with the above requirements.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take effect Friday, November 6, 2020 at 9:00 P.M. MST and shall remain in effect until Monday, November 16, 2020 at 5:00 A.M. MST.

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020.



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Navajo Office of Environmental Health &
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Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director
Manager
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Lucinda Charleston, Deputy Incident

Dikos Ntsaaígíí – 19
Health Command Center
Navajo Department of Health

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 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).

Healthcare Operations: Government or private clinics, hospitals, and programs providing medical diagnosis, treatment, or emergency response. Does not include commercial production, agricultural, retail, or wholesale operations, even if health-related in some way. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-010, May 14, 2020).

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.