



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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32-hour partial weekend lockdowns and daily curfews to continue as Navajo Nation's leaders urge public to prepare for the winter season

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, the Navajo Department of Health issued Public Health Emergency Order 2020-022, continuing the Navajo Nation's 32-hour partial weekend lockdowns and daily curfew hours through the month of September to help control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation.

The new order implements a partial weekend lockdown for the four (4) weekends in September 2020, starting Saturday, Sept. 5, 2020 at 9:00 P.M. (MDT) to Monday, Sept. 7, 2020 at 5:00 A.M. (MDT), and continuing the 32-hour partial weekend lockdowns for the weekends of Sept. 12-14, Sept. 19-21, and Sept. 26-28. The daily curfew hours will remain in effect from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (MDT).

"As long as there is no vaccine available, there will remain substantial risk of contracting COVID-19. We have to keep doing everything we can to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The 32-hour partial weekend lockdowns provide time on Saturdays for families to prepare for the upcoming winter season by gathering fire wood, food, water, and other supplies. Navajo Nation citizens should not be traveling on weekends because the data shows that when our citizens travel to nearby towns and cities, they put themselves at greater risk of contracting the virus and bringing it home to their loved ones, co-workers, and others. With the Labor Day weekend approaching, we have to remain focused and be diligent to avoid another surge in new COVID-19 cases. Our health care system cannot handle another surge," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Public Health Emergency Order 2020-022 also outlines provisions for drive-in gatherings, including religious gatherings, which are allowed during non-curfew hours only and requires organizers to ensure that participants remain in their vehicle except to use the restroom, vehicles must park at least six-feet apart, participants must wear masks at all times, and maintain social distancing with no direct contact with others. Organizers must also limit the number of people in a restroom to less than five people, ensure that people have access to handwashing stations, sanitizer, or gloves, and ensure that high-touch surfaces are regularly disinfected.

“The latest public health emergency order allows some flexibility for drive-in gatherings, which includes strict safety measures to help keep everyone safe. We are listening to the health care experts and frontline workers, and we are doing our best to avoid another spike in new COVID-19 cases on the Navajo Nation by implementing measures that provide some flexibility but also prioritizing the health of our people. Please use the time on Saturdays to get your homes and families ready for the upcoming winter season,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

All businesses including all stores, gas stations, restaurants, drive-thru food establishments, hay and all other vendors are required to cease operations and close during the partial weekend lockdowns and daily curfew hours.

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 partial weekend lockdowns and daily curfew hours. Essential Employees reporting to or from duty are exempted from the partial 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.

Public Health Emergency Order 2020-022 also outlines more provisions for curbside and drive-thru businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, laundry facilities, and drive-in gatherings during non-curfew hours. To view the entire Public Health Emergency Order, please click on the following link: [https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/PDF/PHE/NDOH%20Public%20Health%20Emergency%20Order%202020-022%20Dikos%20Ntsaigii-19%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/PDF/PHE/NDOH%20Public%20Health%20Emergency%20Order%202020-022%20Dikos%20Ntsaigii-19%20(002).pdf).

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

September 1, 2020

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-022

Public Health Emergency Order Continuing 32-Hour Weekend Lockdowns in September 2020

- I. Paragraphs I – IX from Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 are included with this Public Health Emergency Order, addressing the various Navajo Nation (Nation) authorities related to the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- II. Under Public Health Emergency Order (PHEO) No. 2020-020, daily curfew hours were modified to be in effect from 9:00 P.M. MDT to 5:00 A.M. MDT starting August 7, 2020. The daily curfew hours remain in effect.
- III. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-022 is to continue to restrict the movement of individuals on the Nation for a 32-hour period, and implement a partial weekend lockdown for the four (4) weekends in September 2020, starting Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 9:00 P.M. MDT to Monday, September 7, 2020 at 5:00 A.M. MDT, and continuing for the same 32-Hour time periods for the weekends of September 12-14, 2020, September 19-21, 2020, and September 26-28, 2020.
- IV. According to the Department of Health government offices in neighboring states, the number of new cases of COVID-19 are on a downward trajectory during the previous seven (7) days and hospitalization capacity is lower than the 80% threshold. Similarly, Navajo Nation new COVID-19 case trends have declined, and the percent of COVID-19 tests which are positive is less than 10%, and hospitalization capacity remains below the 80% threshold. However, continued vigilance to avoid a rebound in new cases will require lifting curfew hours cautiously. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “indicators to adjust community mitigation strategies consist of a decreasing trend of newly identified cases; a decrease in the percentage of SARS-CoV-2 tests which are positive within a 14-day window; and sufficient inpatient hospital bed capacity (<80% in use) across the jurisdiction.”
- V. 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.**”
- VI. 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 Navajo Nation shall comply with the **32-Hour Weekend Lockdown** across the Nation from 9:00 P.M. MDT on Saturday, September 5, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, September 7, 2020; from 9:00 P.M. MDT on Saturday, September 12, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, September 14, 2020; from 9:00 P.M. MDT on Saturday, September 19, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, September 21, 2020; and from 9:00 P.M. MDT on Saturday, September 26, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, September 28, 2020. All individuals shall remain home during lockdown hours, except in the event of an emergency and 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.
- B. All Essential Businesses may remain open during non-curfew hours on Saturday September 5, September 12, September 19, and September 26.
1. Essential Businesses must operate on a curb-side or drive-through basis to the greatest extent possible.
 2. Grocery stores, gas stations, and laundry facilities shall:
 - a. Continue to maintain customer occupancy limits;
 - b. Ensure that employees and customers wear masks;
 - c. Ensure that customers abide by social (physical) distancing standards;
 - d. Ensure that high-touch surface areas are regularly disinfected; and

- e. Ensure that customers have access to disinfectant wipes or spray, hand sanitizer, or handwashing stations.
- C. Drive-in gatherings may be conducted on Saturday, September 5, September 12, September 19, and September 26 during non-curfew hours, as long as event organizers ensure the following requirements are in place:
1. For drive-in gatherings, participants must remain in the vehicle in which they arrived, except to use the restroom.
 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, maintaining social distancing standards.

Event organizers are also required to:

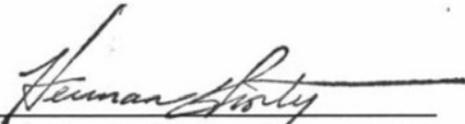
1. Limit the number of people in a restroom to no more than five (5) people.
2. Ensure that people have access to a handwashing station, sanitizer, or gloves.
3. Ensure that high-touch surfaces are regularly disinfected.

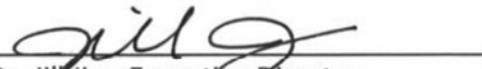
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until a future Order rescinds or changes it.

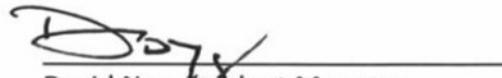
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the public is advised to take the following preventive precautions:

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).

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 1st DAY OF September, 2020.


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Definitions

Drive-in means attending a gathering without leaving one's vehicle.

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.)

Gathering: means any grouping together of individuals in a single connected location. (From Public Health Emergency Order dated March 18, 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.