



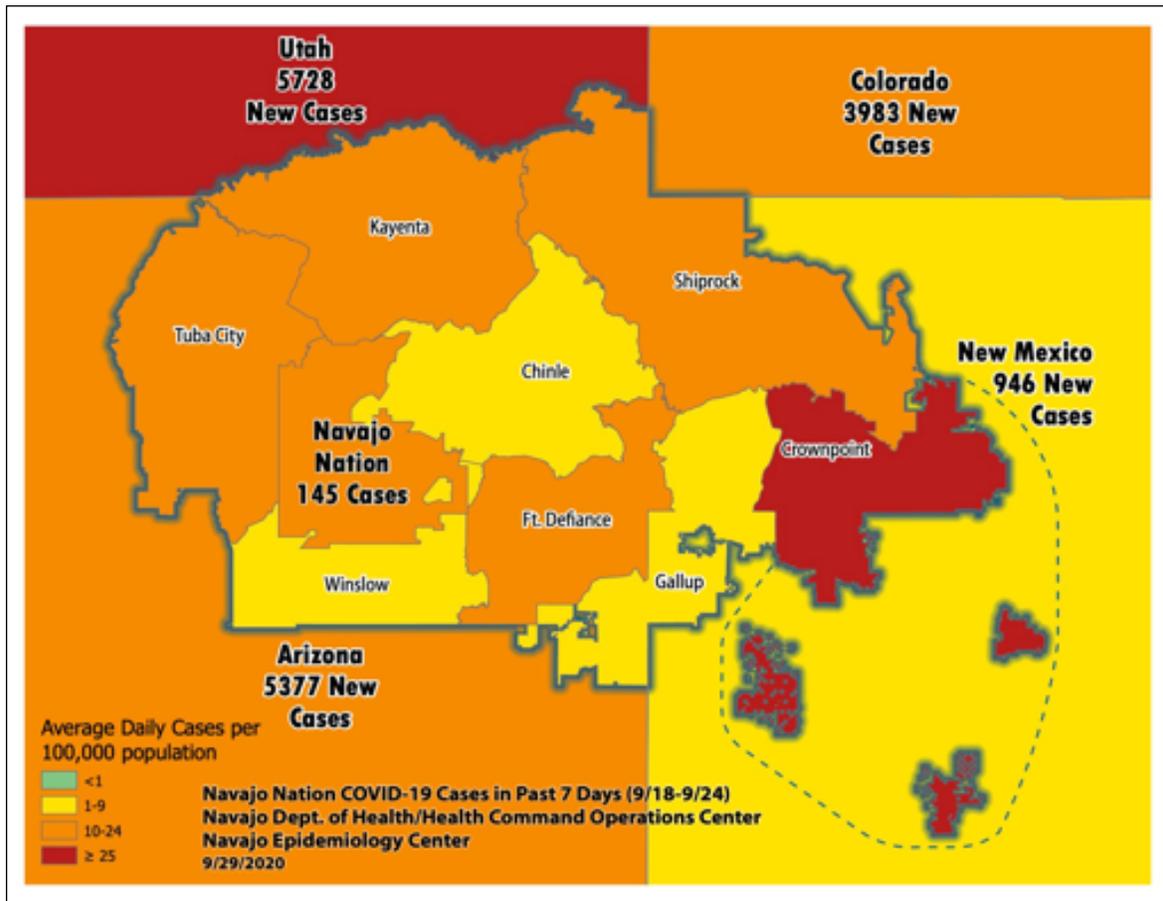
The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2020

**Public health experts recommend additional weekend lockdowns as
COVID-19 cases continue to increase in many regions of the Navajo Nation**



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Navajo Department of Health issued Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-24, which revises the daily curfew during weekdays from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. starting on Friday, Oct. 2, 2020, and implements two additional 57-hour weekend lockdowns as the result of increases in COVID-19 cases in many regions of the Navajo Nation. The 57-hour weekend lockdowns will begin at 8:00 p.m. (MDT) on Friday, Oct. 2 until 5:00 a.m. (MDT) on Monday, Oct. 5 and continuing the weekend lockdown for the same 57-hour time period on Oct. 9-12, 2020. The Stay-At-Home Order also remains in effect for the entire Navajo Nation.

According to information provided by the Navajo Epidemiology Center and contact tracers, the increase in COVID-19 cases is directly related to residents traveling off of the Navajo Nation, and family gatherings where social distancing and the wearing of face masks are not enforced.

The new public health emergency order also allows Navajo Nation residents to collect and haul wood during the 57-hour weekend lockdown, as long as wood haulers obtain a permit from the Navajo Nation Forestry Department. Wood hauling groups are limited to no more than five people and are required to wear masks, maintain social distancing, and use hand sanitizer.

“It only took a few people traveling off our Nation to have wide spread increases in cluster cases in several regions of the Navajo Nation. The only way we are going to reduce the spread of the virus is by adhering to the recommendations and public health emergency orders issued by our public health experts. With the latest public health order, the Nation is allowing residents to collect and haul wood, as long as a permit is secured, in preparation for the winter season. Please use this time wisely and plan ahead to ensure your health and safety,” said President Nez.

Nearby counties and states have also reported increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases, which adds to the overall risk for residents who travel off the Navajo Nation. 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” and “the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.”

“It’s very alarming to see the number of cluster cases rise in various regions of the Navajo Nation, but we have the ability to once again reduce the number of cases. The road ahead is challenging, but we have to remember that the strength and resilience of our ancestors remains within each of us to this day. We will overcome this pandemic together. Please continue to pray for our people and our first responders,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

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. 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 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 weekend lockdown and daily curfew hours. Residents are also allowed to exercise outdoors within their immediate residential area or home site area during non-curfew hours.

To view Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-023, please click the following link: <https://www.opvp.navajonnsn.gov/Portals/0/FILES/Latest%20News/NDOH%20Public%20Health%20Emergency%20Order%202020-024%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.navajonnsn.gov/COVID-19>. For COVID-19 related questions and information, call (928) 871-7014.

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

September 29, 2020

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-024

**Public Health Emergency Order Regarding Updated Daily Curfew Hours and Implementing
Additional 57-Hour Weekend Lockdowns**

- I. Paragraphs I – IX 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. Starting Friday, October 2, 2020, updated daily curfew hours are from 8:00 P.M. MDT to 5:00 A.M. MDT.
- III. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-024 is to restrict the movement of individuals on the Nation for a 57-hour period, and implement a full weekend lockdown for the next for the next two (2) weekends in October, starting Friday, October 2, 2020 at 8:00 P.M. MDT to Monday, October 5, 2020 at 5:00 A.M. MDT, and continuing for the same 57-Hour time periods for the weekend of October 9-12, 2020. All provisions of this Order are to be interpreted to effectuate this intent. Failure to comply with any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health.
- IV. According to the Department of Health government offices in neighboring states, the number of new cases of COVID-19 are on an upward trajectory during the previous ten (10) days. Similarly, Navajo Nation new COVID-19 case trends have increased, and the percent of COVID-19 tests which are positive continue to rise and clusters continue to emerge in other areas of the Navajo Nation. These cluster cases are a direct result of family gatherings and off-Reservation travel. They also have the potential to lead to an outbreak and another surge in cases on the Navajo Nation, which may overwhelm the health care system on the Navajo Nation if not mitigated immediately.
- V. A Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) order was re-issued on September 22, 2020 to further ensure an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic by restricting movement of individuals on the Nation to limit contact to prevent the spread of the virus and to minimize the strain on medical response capabilities. (Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-023).

- 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. **Updated Daily Curfew Hours:** A daily 8:00 P.M. MDT to 5:00 A.M. MDT curfew applies to all individuals across the Nation. All individuals shall be at home during curfew hours, except in the event of an emergency.
 - 1. Essential Businesses shall limit operations before 6:00 A.M. MDT and after 7:00 P.M. MDT to permit customers to obey the daily curfew.
 - 2. The daily curfew does not apply to Essential Employees reporting to or from duty. An essential employee must carry official identification or a letter of designation from their essential business or essential government activity employer on official letterhead, naming a point of contact with contact information for verification.
 - 3. This daily curfew does not apply to Essential Businesses that do not directly serve customers, including Food Cultivation (as described in Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003).
- B. All individuals on the Navajo Nation shall comply with the **57-Hour Weekend Lockdown** across the Nation from 8:00 P.M. MDT on Friday, October 2, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, October 5, 2020 and from 8:00 P.M. MDT on Friday, October 9, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, October 12, 2020. All individuals shall remain home during lockdown hours except in the event of an emergency 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. Wood collection and hauling, with an appropriate permit issued by the Navajo Nation Forestry Department, is a permissible activity during the weekend lockdown 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.

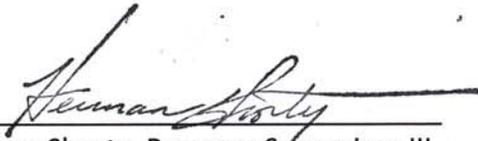
4. **Essential Businesses**, including *all stores, gas stations*, restaurants and drive-through food establishments shall be closed. Hay and all other vendors must cease operations for the duration of the Weekend Lockdown. This closure and cease operations requirement does not apply to Healthcare Operations, 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.

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 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.

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 29th DAY OF September, 2020.


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Definitions

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

Essential Activities: (1) activities or tasks essential to the health and safety of one's household (including livestock and pets), such as obtaining critical medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional for an imminent health need, or participating in a Traditional Navajo ceremony or prayer; (2) obtaining necessary services or supplies (such as canned food, dry goods, produce, pet supplies, meat, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of a residence); (3) engaging in daytime outdoor activity such as walking, hiking, or running (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020); (4) Voting (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-009, May 14, 2020); (5) Cultivate food (i.e. farming) and tend to livestock (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-015 (June 16, 2020); (6) Working for an essential business or in an essential government function, or providing essential infrastructure services; (7) Wood collection and hauling.

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).

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.