



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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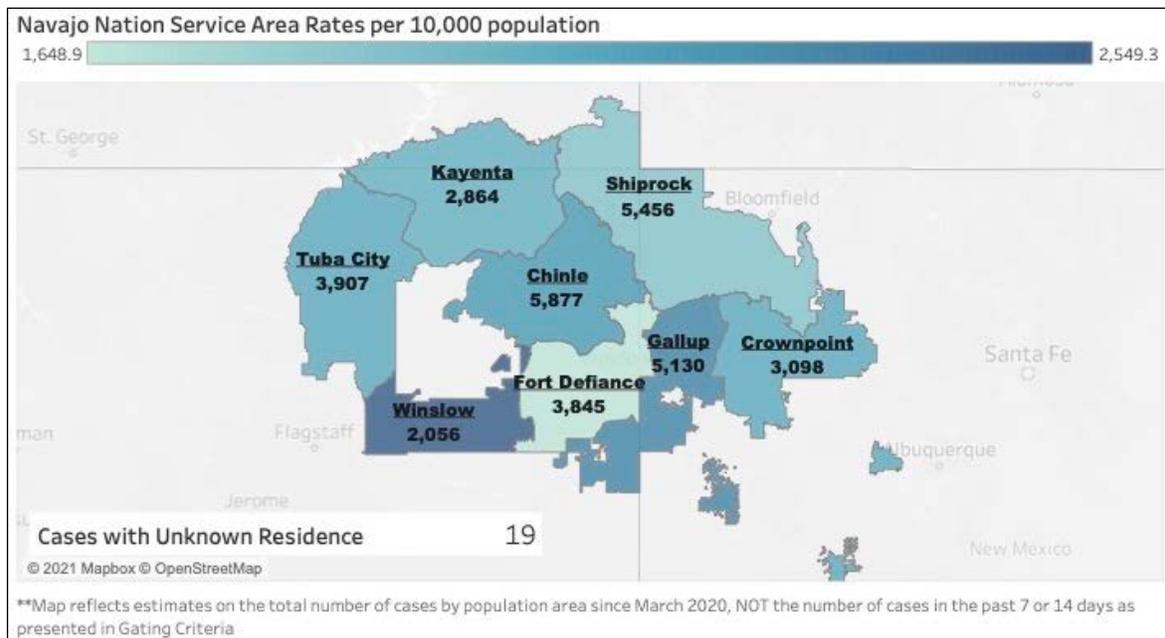
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2021

**33 new cases, 30,435 recoveries, and no recent deaths related
to COVID-19, vaccine mandate issued for Navajo Nation employees**



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Sunday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 33 new COVID-19 cases for the Navajo Nation and no recent deaths. The total number of deaths remains 1,397. The report indicates that 30,435 individuals have recovered from COVID-19. 305,587 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The overall total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 32,252.

Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive cases by Service Unit:

- Chinle Service Unit: 5,877
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 3,098
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 3,845
- Gallup Service Unit: 5,130
- Kayenta Service Unit: 2,864
- Shiprock Service Unit: 5,456

- Tuba City Service Unit: 3,907
 - Winslow Service Unit: 2,056
- * 19 residences with COVID-19 positive cases are not specific enough to place them accurately in a Service Unit.

On Sunday, the state of Arizona reported 3,307 new cases. The states of Utah and New Mexico will report their weekend case numbers on Monday. An Executive Order was issued mandating all Navajo Nation employees within branches, divisions, departments, programs, offices, chapters, and enterprises to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Sept. 29, 2021. The mandate applies to all regular, part-time, and temporary employees. An employee who fails to provide proof of full vaccination, is considered to be unvaccinated and shall be required to submit a negative COVID-19 test result at least once every 14 days.

“The bottom line is that we do not want to have another large surge in new COVID-19 cases that would harm our health care system and lead to more lives lost. This new vaccine mandate will help to keep employees safer and give those who are not able to receive the vaccine the option to get tested more frequently. If you don’t want to receive the vaccine, then you’ll have to be tested at least every two weeks. So far, approximately 83-percent of Executive Branch employees are fully vaccinated, but we need to increase that percentage due to the higher transmissibility of the variants. With so many of our employees working directly with our Navajo people, we have to take measures to keep everyone safe and healthy. We cannot afford to shut down the government again. We have to continue providing direct services to the people,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Health care facilities across the Navajo Nation continue to administer COVID-19 vaccines during drive-thru events or by appointment. If you would like to receive the vaccine, please contact your health care provider for more information for your Service Unit.

“Continue to take precautions and keep praying for our frontline workers and our people. Please continue to mask up in public and minimize in-person social and family gatherings until we see a decline in new cases. Our health care workers continue to fight for us every day, so let’s be safe and fight for them as well,” 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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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 007-2021

EXECUTIVE ORDER RELATED TO NAVAJO NATION STATE OF EMERGENCY; MANDATING COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR NAVAJO NATION EMPLOYEES

**NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
AUGUST 20, 2021**

WHEREAS:

1. The President of the Navajo Nation serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government with full authority to conduct, supervise, and coordinate personnel and program matters. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (A);
2. The President shall have the power to issue an executive order for the purpose of interpreting, implementing or giving administrative effect to statutes of the Navajo Nation in the manner set forth in such statutes. 2.N.N.C. §1005 (C)(14);
3. With the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation, the Emergency Management Commission shall have the power to declare a state of emergency affecting the Navajo Nation and to obtain, coordinate and oversee assistance, whether in the form of goods, services, equipment, motor vehicles, or personnel, from all Divisions, Departments and Enterprises of the Navajo Nation for use in addressing the requirements of the People in any declared emergency. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1)(3);
4. The Emergency Management Commission declared an emergency due to the confirmation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 884(B)(1), *See* Emergency Management Commission resolutions CEM 20-03-11;
5. The Navajo Nation President shall have full authority to conduct, supervise, and coordinate personnel and programs of the Navajo Nation, 2 N.N.C. § 1005(A);
6. An Executive Order shall have the force of law upon the recipient. 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(14).

THEREFORE:

I, Jonathan Nez, President of the Navajo Nation, by the authority vested in the President of the Navajo Nation, hereby issue the following order:

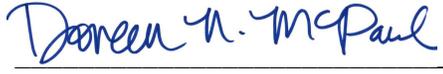
1. The declared state of emergency for the Navajo Nation, CEM 20-03-11, remains in place;
2. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines consisting of a two-dose series. Most recently, an additional dose of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was approved for certain immunocompromised individuals. Another vaccine recently approved by the FDA is the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine by Johnson & Johnson. These FDA-approved EUAs for COVID-19 vaccines are proven help to slow or the spread of COVID-19 and also lessen the severity of COVID-19 symptoms;
3. All Navajo Nation employees, within the Navajo Nation Branches, Divisions, Departments, programs, offices, Chapters, and Enterprises, are mandated to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 **by September 29, 2021.**
 - a. Employees, regular, part-time, and temporary, must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination to their immediate supervisor on or before September 29, 2021. An employee who fails to provide proof of vaccination, as required, is considered to be unvaccinated and subject to the requirements below.
 - b. Employees who remain unvaccinated, for any reason, after September 29, 2021 shall provide a negative COVID-19 test result from a medical provider to their immediate supervisor on or before September 29, 2021. Additionally, such employees shall thereafter submit a negative COVID-19 test result at least once every fourteen (14) days.
 - c. Employees who fail to provide negative COVID-19 test results as required may be subject to discipline consistent with the Navajo Preference in Employment Act and the applicable personnel policy manual;
4. The Navajo Department of Health, Department of Personnel Management, or applicable personnel department are authorized to issue further guidance to implement the vaccine requirements set out herein;
5. Navajo Nation employees shall continue to follow the orders set in the Declaration of a State of Emergency by the Emergency Management Commission, CEM 20-03-11, and Public Health Emergency Orders (*see* www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19), and Work Site Safety Guidelines (*see* <https://www.navajoreopening.navajo-nsn.gov/Executive-Branch-Guidelines>).

The provisions of this order shall be implemented consistent with the laws of the Navajo Nation and in a manner that advances the highest welfare of the People.

EXECUTED this 20th day of August 2021



Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

ATTEST: 

Doreen N. McPaul, *Attorney General*
Navajo Nation Department of Justice