FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2021

Navajo Department of Health declares “Yellow Status” for schools, issues guidelines for youth programs, and allows parks to welcome visitors and tourists

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, the Navajo Department of Health issued two new Public Health Emergency Orders addressing the reopening of schools, allowing youth programs to operate, and allowing Navajo Nation parks to welcome visitors and tourists at a maximum of 50-percent occupancy.

Under Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-013, the Navajo Department of Health continues the “Yellow Status” allowing businesses to operate with 50-percent occupancy, which includes restaurants, casinos, lodging/hotels, museums and zoos, and parks and marinas. On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez signed Resolution CJN-36-21 into law, which included language allowing Navajo Nation roads to reopen to visitors and tourists. The public health emergency order also allows youth programs to operate under the following guidelines:

Under Public Health Emergency No. 2021-014, the Navajo Department of Health declares “yellow status” for schools to reopen under the Navajo Nation’s COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework: https://www.navajoreopening.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19-Safe-Schools-Framework. Prior to reopening, all schools are required to develop and submit a School Reopening Plan to the Department of Diné Education at: schoolreopening@nndode.org. The reopening of schools was allowed after President Nez signed Resolution CJN-36-21 on Tuesday, which rescinded a previous resolution that opposed in-person school instruction.

“The Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with Navajo Area IHS and other public health experts, carefully evaluates the gating measures and data related to new COVID-19 cases and trends. Based on that data, they have developed guidelines and protocols that allow our Nation to gradually reopen parks, youth programs, and schools. Parks can reopen as early as Thursday and schools are required to submit their School Reopening Plan to the Department of Diné Education prior to resuming in-person instruction for students. Here on the Navajo Nation, the data shows a consistent downward trend in new cases and deaths related to COVID-19. We have a large majority of our Navajo Nation residents fully vaccinated. These two factors were critical in lifting
more COVID-19 restrictions. We continue to urge all of our Navajo Nation residents to be very cautious, to get fully vaccinated, and continue wearing masks in public,” said President Nez.

During an online town hall on Wednesday, health officials reported that a majority of new COVID-19 infections and deaths involve individuals who are not vaccinated. This is a common trend across the country as well. The town hall is available to view on the Nez-Lizer YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lTU9s4dJtk.

“As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, we must do so cautiously to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and the variants. Our health experts have given us the guidance and tools to keep ourselves safe and healthy. Personal responsibility is key. Please be safe and keep praying for our health care workers and all of our Navajo people,” said Vice President Lizer.

All Public Health Emergency Orders are available online at: https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19.

# # #

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

July 7, 2021

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-013

Public Health Emergency Order Continuing “Yellow Status” for Businesses

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. In response to COVID-19, the Navajo Nation has established the “Navajo Nation Reopening Plan,” to declare the Nation’s “status” according thereto, and to guide businesses in proper compliance with the plan. 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.

III. The Navajo Nation is experiencing a plateau of low cases, with a slowed infection rate and no sustained rebound. The Nation remains vigilant as neighboring states are reducing restrictions rapidly and new COVID variants are present and being monitored in states surrounding the Navajo Nation. As coronavirus vaccines are being made available on the Navajo Nation, all preventative precautions should continue to be adhered to after receiving the vaccine. The Navajo Nation recently documented cases of COVID-19 Alpha (B.1.1.7), Gamma (P.1/P.1.1), Epsilon (B.1.427/429), and Delta (B.1.617.2) within the Navajo Nation. According to the CDC, these variants seem to spread more easily and quickly.

IV. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Resolution No. CJN-36-21, signed into law on July 6, 2021, the Nation’s roads are reopened to Visitors and Tourists, all Navajo Nation enterprises and Navajo businesses are open to Navajo citizens and non-Navajo tourists and visitors, in compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols and applicable Public Health Orders.

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. The Navajo Nation Reopening Plan is declared binding on all businesses on the Navajo Nation. Available at https://www.navajoreopening.navajo-nsn.gov/ .
B. Per the Plan’s “reopening status schedule,” the Navajo Health Command and Operations Center (“NHCOC”), having evaluated the current state of the Navajo Nation per the gating criteria and public health considerations provided in the Plan, declares the Nation to continue in Yellow status. All businesses shall be bound to the conditions and requirements of Yellow status. The NHCOC will announce any future status changes by Public Health Emergency Order.

C. Yellow status is defined as: 50% of maximum occupancy allowed for most businesses to be open, including:

- Restaurants, including indoor dining, drive-thru, curb-side, and outdoor dining.
- Navajo casinos.
- Lodging and hotels including campgrounds and RV parks.
- Museums and zoos.
- Marinas and parks. Tour businesses must follow the HCOC Reopening Guidelines for Tour Businesses.

D. Personal Care and Services are allowed by appointment only with cleaning between appointments.

E. Flea markets and roadside markets are allowed in accordance with guidelines issued by the HCOC.

F. Youth programs are allowed in accordance with guideline issued by the HCOC. Per guideline, report all COVID-19 cases to local health care facility, and to the HCOC COVID-19 Report Exposure Portal. For questions about reporting cases, call the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.

G. Not Allowed in Yellow Phase: gyms, recreation facilities, movie theaters.

H. All businesses are required to submit a COVID-19 Reopening Plan to the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development before reopening in Yellow Status. Reopening plans can be emailed to: navajoeconomy@navajo-nsn.gov

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that this Order shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements (consistent with HIPAA privacy standards).

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that this Order shall take effect Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 5:00 A.M. MDT, and shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Health Command Operations Center.
ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 7th Day of July, 2021.

Geraldine Ashley, Delegated Program Supervisor III
Navajo Office of Environmental Health & Protection Program
Navajo Department of Health

Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director
Navajo Department of Health
Health Command Operations Center
PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM

July 7, 2021

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-014
Public Health Emergency Order Implementing the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework and Declaring “Yellow Status” for Schools

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. In response to COVID-19, the Navajo Nation has developed the “Navajo Nation COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework” to declare the Nation’s “status” according thereto and to guide the reopening of all schools, including Head Start, across the Navajo Nation in proper compliance with the Framework. 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.

III. The Navajo Nation is experiencing a plateau of low cases, with a slowed infection rate and no sustained rebound. The Nation remains vigilant as neighboring states are reducing restrictions rapidly and new COVID variants are present and being monitored in states surrounding the Navajo Nation. As coronavirus vaccines continue to be made available on the Navajo Nation, all preventative precautions should continue to be adhered to after receiving the vaccine. The Navajo Nation recently documented cases of COVID-19 Alpha (B.1.1.7), Gamma (P.1/P.1.1), Epsilon (B.1.427/429), and Delta (B.1.617.2) within the Navajo Nation. According to the CDC, these variants seem to spread more easily and quickly.

IV. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Resolution No. CJN-36-21, signed into law on July 6, 2021, in-person instruction is allowed for schools operating within the Navajo Nation, in compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols and applicable Public Health Orders.

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. The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework is declared binding on all schools, including Head Start, across the Navajo Nation. All schools are required to comply with the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework and the Navajo Nation School Reopening Plan. Available at https://www.navajoreopening.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19-Safe-Schools-Framework

B. Per the Framework, the Navajo Health Command and Operations Center (NHCOC), having evaluated the current state of the Navajo Nation per the gating criteria and public health considerations provided in the Framework, declares the Navajo Nation to be in “Yellow Status.” All schools shall be bound to the conditions and requirements of Yellow status. The NHCOC will announce any future status changes by Public Health Emergency Order.

C. Yellow status is defined as: Moderate Transmission of COVID-19. Schools must implement all the required core prevention strategies and conditional prevention strategies noted in the Framework: parent options, use of masks, physical distancing, student cohorting, hygiene, cleaning and ventilation, diagnostic testing, contact tracing, required reporting, and COVID-19 vaccinations.

D. All schools are required to create, submit and implement a School Reopening Plan and complete an accompanying Reopening Readiness Assessment Attestation form. School Reopening Plans and completed Reopening Readiness Assessment Attestation forms should be submitted to the Department of Diné Education at: schoolreopening@nndode.org.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements (consistent with HIPAA privacy standards).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take effect Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 5:00 A.M. MDT, and shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Health Command Center.
ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 07th DAY OF JULY, 2021.

Geraldine Ashley, Delegated Program Supervisor III  
Navajo Office of Environmental Health & Protection Program  
Navajo Department of Health

Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director  
Navajo Department of Health  
Health Command Operations Center
This guidance is intended for youth summer programs hosted on the Navajo Nation. Summer programs offer activities for youth to participate in and can include sports, recreational activities, arts and crafts, and/or academic enrichment (e.g., math, science). This guidance does not apply to single events with large groups of people, such as Just Move It, junior rodeos, or related activities. Also, does not apply to youth employment and tribal/federal/non-profit youth programs (e.g., correctional, Office of Dine Youth).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

• Length of summer programs are longer than one day
  o For one day events, refer to Outdoor Recreational Event Guidelines
• Summer period: June through August
• Maximum amount of time each day: cannot exceed 6 hours
  o Overnight camps are not permitted
• Ensure adequate staffing to support mitigation measures for all attendees
• Adhere to maximum occupancy limits per the current Navajo Nation Public Health Emergency Order and Navajo Nation Executive Order.

WHO CAN ATTEND?
Clearly communicate steps to be taken before, during, and after the summer program to ensure that participants and parents are aware of safety protocols.
It is strongly recommended that those who attend or participate, including staff:
  • if eligible, have been fully or partially vaccinated, or
  • are not currently required to isolate or quarantine due to a COVID exposure or positive test result, and
  • are not currently sick and/or experiencing COVID symptoms.
Those recently tested for COVID and still waiting on results should not attend until those results are final and “negative”.

COVID-19 SAFE PRACTICES: REOPENING GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAMS
FOLLOWING BASIC COVID-19 SAFE PRACTICES

• Practice the three W’s
  o Wear a Mask: Mask wearing is mandatory except when eating, drinking, and swimming. Disposable masks must be made available for attendees.
  o Wash Hands: Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations must be provided, convenient, and accessible.
  o Watch Your Distance: Keep 6 feet away from others who do not live with you.
• Stay home when sick or having symptoms of COVID-19.
• Do not touch your face, eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
• Create a plan of action when a staff member and/or attendee is sick. The plan should include:
  o stopping operations if anyone shows symptoms common to COVID-19 or involved as a potential close contact,
  o identify an area to separate anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during hours of operation and ensure minors are not left without adult supervision, and
  • if a minor, notify parents
  o cleaning and sanitizing affected areas, and
  o reporting all COVID-19 cases to local health care facility, and to the HCOC COVID-19 Report Exposure Portal. For questions about reporting cases, call the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.

SIGNAGE

• Post signage prohibiting anyone who is sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms from entering the space.
• Post signage to practice physical distancing and wash hands or use hand sanitizer often.
• Post signage on properly wearing a mask.

SCREENING

• All attendees must pre-register or have sign in sheets on-site.
  o Document name and contact number on a sign-in sheet to support contact tracing if there is an exposure.
• Screen for COVID-19 symptoms among attendees, volunteers, and staff upon arrival.
• Highly recommend performing temperature checks for staff members or volunteers, if equipment is available.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

• Stagger times for drop-off and pick-up to avoid crowded areas for youth gatherings.
• Restrict common areas where people are likely to congregate and interact.
• Provide ample seating or viewing areas. Adjust seating capacity and stagger seating to meet occupancy guidelines.
• Encourage safe greeting practices to maintain physical distancing. Participants should avoid direct contact such as handshakes and hugs with others who are not from their household.
• Provide physical barriers in indoor spaces, such as taping or marking floors or walkways to ensure youth always remain 6 feet apart.
• Gatherings and activities are strongly recommended to be held outdoors if weather permits.
• Dividing kids into smaller groups is recommended. All individuals within the same small group
should continue to wear masks, except when eating, drinking, or swimming.

- Attendees who live in the same home may remain together, closer than 6 feet, within one single “family pod.” Other attendees must maintain 6 or more feet of distance.

FOOD OR DRINKS

- Attendees may bring their own meals and snacks, but if food is provided, the following is recommended:
  o Eat meals and snacks outdoors or in well ventilated spaces while maintaining physical distancing,
  o Use single-use disposable plates, cups, utensils, and prepackaged condiments, and
  o Limit crowding where the food is served.

VENTILATION AND CLEANING

- Ensure that ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate properly, are well maintained, and all ventilation system filters have been serviced and replaced by qualified technicians.
- Increase the circulation of indoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods recommended by American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).
- Intensify cleaning and disinfection through implementation of daily protocols and document completion on a cleaning log.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and any areas after they are touched or used, such as seats, doorknobs, tables, restrooms, etc.
- Sanitize game equipment before and after use.
- Use of drinking fountains are prohibited. Instead, provide bottled water or serve water from a water dispenser.
- Minimize shared objects:
  o Discourage sharing objects that are difficult to clean or disinfect. For example, sharing of books, soft toys, stuffed animals, crayons and art supplies, sponges, clay, etc.
  o Ensure adequate supplies (e.g., assign each student art supplies or equipment).
  o Avoid sharing electronic devices if possible.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- If necessary, provide an area covered with a canopy for shade.

For questions, please contact the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.

RESOURCES