FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2021

Navajo Nation marks one year since first confirmed case of COVID-19, Day of Prayer virtual event to be held on Friday

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, the Navajo Nation marks one year since the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported. A virtual “Navajo Nation Day of Prayer” event is scheduled for Friday, March 19 at 9:00 a.m. (MDT) to honor and remember all of the lives lost to COVID-19. The virtual event will include remarks from Navajo Nation leaders, newly-confirmed U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, faith-based leaders, Indian Health Service, will be live-streamed on the Nez-Lizer Facebook page, YouTube channel, and the Navajo Nation Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services Facebook page.

As of Tuesday, there are currently 29,957 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1,219 reported deaths on the Navajo Nation since the first case was reported on March 17, 2020.

“During the Navajo Nation Day of Prayer on Friday, we call upon the Navajo people, from all faiths, to join in prayer to honor and remember all of the lives lost, to ask for strength and comfort for all of the grieving families, and to ask for strong physical and mental health and continued blessings for our communities, health care workers and frontline warriors, and our entire Nation during the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize the hardships, sacrifices, and losses that our people continue to endure and we pray for protection and recovery from COVID-19, and we thank our health care workers and frontline warriors who put themselves in harm’s way to help our Navajo people to save countless lives. We continue on in this fight against COVID-19 using the strength and teachings of our elders and the data and recommendations of our public health experts to guide us,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

The Navajo Area Indian Health Service reported on Monday that 203,220 total vaccine doses have been received, 176,141 administered, which represents nearly 87-percent so far. 69,224 individuals have received both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. Navajo Nation residents are encouraged to contact their health provider for more information about vaccine schedules and appointments if they wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

“The strength and resilience of our ancestors is alive within each of us to this day. There is no doubt that we are overcoming this pandemic day by day, but we have to keep fighting this virus together and not let up our guard. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the families who have lost loved ones and with all of those fighting the virus right now. We will have to cope with the
long-term physical and mental health impacts long after the pandemic, so we have to continue to support one another and pray for more strength and guidance,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

The Office of the President and Vice President, in partnership with the Navajo Nation Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services, established a Navajo Nation Mental Health Taskforce that is holding weekly virtual events to provide assistance with mental health and healing. The next virtual event hosted by the Mental Health Taskforce will take place on Monday, March 22 at 1:00 p.m. (MDT) on the Nez-Lizer Facebook page, YouTube channel, and the Navajo Nation Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services Facebook page.

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2021
Spring
DAY OF PRAYER
Remaining Resilient & Balanced with Prayer
FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
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