FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 18, 2021

18 new cases, 29,353 recoveries, and two more deaths related to COVID-19

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 18 new COVID-19 positive cases for the Navajo Nation and two more deaths. The total number of deaths is now 1,295 as previously reported. Reports indicate that 29,353 individuals have recovered from COVID-19. 270,706 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 30,740.

Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive cases by Service Unit:

- Chinle Service Unit: 5,591
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 2,953
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 3,658
Gallup Service Unit: 4,880
Kayenta Service Unit: 2,725
Shiprock Service Unit: 5,193
Tuba City Service Unit: 3,735
Winslow Service Unit: 1,986
* 19 residences with COVID-19 positive cases are not specific enough to place them accurately in a Service Unit.

On Tuesday, the state of Arizona reported 619 new cases, Utah reported 257, and New Mexico reported 155 cases. The Navajo Department of Health issued a Health Advisory Notice on Tuesday, reaffirming the face mask mandate for the entire Navajo Nation. All individuals are required to wear a face mask in public, indoors and outdoors, at all times.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez visited vaccination sites in Kayenta and Chinle on Tuesday, to offer his support for health care workers and to encourage local residents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, which is now available to individuals who are 12 years of age and older.

“There are many opportunities in many communities for our younger population and adults to receive the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine. I am very thankful to all of the health care workers for their commitment and for going out into the communities to make the vaccines readily available. The vaccines are key to pushing back on the virus and continuing to bring down the numbers of new infections and deaths. Please continue to limit travel, wear a mask in public at all times, practice social distancing, and wash your hands often,” said President 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.

The Nez-Lizer Administration will host an online town hall on Wednesday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m. (MDT) on the Nez-Lizer Facebook page and YouTube channel to provide more COVID-19 updates.

“We have to remain strong and continue to get more of our people vaccinated for COVID-19. This pandemic has challenged us in so many ways, but our people have been very strong and resilient throughout and we are overcoming the pandemic one day at a time. Please be safe and continue to pray for our health care workers and our communities,” 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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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.
Navajo Department of Health
Health Advisory Notice (HAN)
Mandating Use of Masks Among All Persons in Public is Still in Effect
May 18, 2021

WINDOW ROCK, AZ – The Navajo Department of Health and the Health Command Operations Center is reminding individuals the use of masks in public on the Navajo Nation is still required. Although the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People state that individuals fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and work place guidance, we are not in concurrence with these updated guidelines.

Pursuant to Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-007 Mandating Use of Masks in Public due to COVID-19 is still in effect; therefore, individuals fully or partially vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine or is unvaccinated must continue to wear a mask in public. Access the order at Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-007 Mask Mandate

Everyone on the Navajo Nation is required to continue certain safety practices even if you have been fully vaccinated to keep our loved ones and communities safe from COVID-19. Vaccinated people should continue to wear a mask because some of our family, and community members are at high risk in getting very sick with the virus.

Continue to wear a well-fitting mask even if you are fully vaccinated.

- When around those you do not live with
- When in public
- When gathering
- Watch your distance- stay 6 feet away from others
- Wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer

It is critical for individuals to receive a COVID-19 vaccine to ensure the safety of families and communities and minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 within households. More members of your family get can vaccinated today. You may schedule an appointment or attend a vaccine event at your local health facility. For more information, go to https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine.

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.