FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2021

7 new cases, 29,343 recoveries, and no recent deaths related to COVID-19

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported seven new COVID-19 positive cases for the Navajo Nation and no recent deaths. The total number of deaths remains 1,293 as previously reported. Reports indicate that 29,343 individuals have recovered from COVID-19. 270,405 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 30,722.

Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive cases by Service Unit:

- Chinle Service Unit: 5,591
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 2,948
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 3,656
- Gallup Service Unit: 4,874
- Kayenta Service Unit: 2,725
- Shiprock Service Unit: 5,189
• Tuba City Service Unit: 3,735
• Winslow Service Unit: 1,985
  * 19 residences with COVID-19 positive cases are not specific enough to place them accurately in a Service Unit.

On Monday, the state of Arizona reported 468 new cases, Utah reported 164, and New Mexico reported 543 that includes Saturday, Sunday, and Monday case numbers combined. The Navajo Department of Health identified seven communities with “uncontrolled spread” of COVID-19 from April 30, 2021 to May 13, 2021 in the latest Health Advisory Notice issued on Monday, which includes Baca/Prewitt, Chichiltah, Church Rock, Coyote Canyon, Shiprock, Tachee/Blue Gap, and Upper Fruitland.

“Several states have lifted even more restrictions that helped to prevent more spread of COVID-19, but we are keeping the mask mandate and social distancing protocols in place on the Navajo Nation. As we’ve seen before, the virus is unpredictable at times so we have to be very careful and continue to urge our citizens to continue taking precautions to stay safe. This week, we have seven communities that are identified as having uncontrolled spread. We have to do better and keep pushing back on COVID-19 and that includes getting vaccinated. Please continue to practice social distancing, avoid large in-person gatherings, stay home as much as possible, get vaccinated, 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.

“COVID-19 has impacted all of us and it’s going to take all of us working together and supporting one another to overcome it. Please do your best to inform and encourage your loved ones about the COVID-19 vaccines. In order to have safer communities and to be able to protect ourselves more, we need more of our people to receive the vaccine. Please be safe and continue to pray,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.


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WINDOW ROCK, AZ – The Navajo Health Command Operations Center is issuing uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 advisory for several communities. The cases reflect dates from April 30, 2021 – May 13, 2021. The advisory will be in effect until the risk and cases decline.

The following community is identified as uncontrolled spread of COVID-19:

- Baca/Prewitt
- Chichiltah
- Churchrock
- Coyote Canyon
- Shiprock
- Tachee/Blue Gap
- Upper Fruitland

All residents should take precautions to protect their health from the spread of COVID-19. Individuals with the following conditions are at higher risk of being affected from COVID-19.

**People at Increased Risk for Severe Illness**
- Older Adults
- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Heart conditions
- Immunocompromised state
- Obesity and severe obesity
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

**Might be at Increased Risk for Severe Illness**
- Asthma
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Liver disease
- Overweight
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Thalassemia
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus

All residents should practice health and safety measures:

- Wear a mask in the public.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
• Avoid touching your face, nose, and eyes with unwashed hands.
• Clean and disinfect your vehicle, home, workspace and other common areas on a regular basis.
• Social distance - keep 6 feet between yourself and others.
• Limit gatherings with individuals outside your immediate household.