FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2022

93 new cases, 40,199 recoveries, and one death related to COVID-19, new Public Health Emergency Orders issued

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 93 new COVID-19 cases for the Navajo Nation and one death. The total number of deaths is 1,594. The report indicates that 40,199 individuals have recovered from COVID-19. 433,201 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The overall total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 43,541, including 171 delayed reported cases.

Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive cases by Service Unit:

- Chinle Service Unit: 7,993
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 4,082
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 4,926
- Gallup Service Unit: 7,199

Navajo Nation Service Area Rates per 10,000 population

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**Map reflects estimates on the total number of cases by population area since March 2020, NOT the number of cases in the past 7 or 14 days as presented in Gating Criteria**
On Tuesday, the state of Arizona reported 14,160 new cases, the state of Utah reported 9,813 new cases, and New Mexico reported 2,932. The Navajo Department of Health reported 19 confirmed Omicron cases on the Navajo Nation on Tuesday, within the following Service Units: Chinle, Kayenta, Sage Memorial Hospital, Tuba City, and Utah Navajo Health System. The Department of Health also issued two public health emergency orders on Tuesday, which are posted online at: https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19.

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-01 reaffirms the Navajo Nation's “safer at home” order and includes new travel guidelines including, delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated or received a booster vaccine, avoiding all unnecessary travel, staying home if you are sick or in quarantine unless seeking medical attention, using alternative methods such as virtual or telephonic for meetings and appointments, and testing before and after traveling as a precaution.

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-02 declares “Red Status” for schools due to the increase in cases due to the Omicron variant. Last year, the Navajo Nation developed the “Navajo Nation COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework” to guide the reopening of schools, which is posted online at: https://www.navajoreopening.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19-Safe-Schools-Framework. Among the provisions includes the following for schools:

1. Implement more aggressive physical distancing measures.
2. Hybrid (in-person and virtual) or virtual learning shall be offered to the maximum extent possible.
3. Limit gathering to 15 or fewer persons for non-classroom instruction events such as back-to-school, orientations and other community gatherings.
4. Limit sport event attendance to 25% of maximum occupancy for indoor and outdoor seating areas, and consistent with HCOC guideline for school sporting events.
5. Require students, staff and visitors to stay home if they are sick.
6. Promptly report exposures using the HCOC portal (available at https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19) and notify the nearest local health facility (Indian Health Service or Tribal Health Organization). Exposures will be reported on the HCOC webpage of school exposures to notify the public.

“As of today, there are 19 confirmed Omicron cases within our communities on the Navajo Nation. We must all take extra precautions and encourage our loved ones to get fully vaccinated and a booster shot if eligible. 12- to 15-year-old individuals are also eligible to receive booster shots as well. The new public health emergency orders issued by the Navajo Department of Health are in response to the rise in COVID-19 cases here on the Navajo Nation. If you go into public places, our health officials strongly recommend wearing two masks due to the high

* 22 residences with COVID-19 positive cases are not specific enough to place them accurately in a Service Unit.
transmissibility of the Omicron variant. We have to remain diligent, keep taking precautions, and continue to pray," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

This week, President Nez also issued an Executive Order mandating all employee, regular, part-time, and temporary to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination booster shot by Jan. 24, 2022. If an employee is not fully vaccinated and does not get a booster shot, the employee is required to submit a negative COVID-19 test result at least once every 14 days. President Nez previously issued an Executive Order requiring all employees to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by Sept. 29, 2021 or be subject to mandatory COVID-19 testing.

“If you have elders in your family, please take the time to inform them and keep them updated about the spread of the Omicron variant and guidance from our health professionals. Our elders and those with underlying health conditions need our support throughout this pandemic. Please take safety measures to keep yourselves and others safe and healthy and keep praying for our people and frontline workers,” 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. 001-2022
EXECUTIVE ORDER RELATED TO
NAVAJO NATION STATE OF EMERGENCY;
UPDATED AND REVISED;
MANDATING COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR NAVAJO NATION
EMPLOYEES

NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
JANUARY 10, 2022

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 amended its approved emergency use authorization (EUAs) for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine by shortening the length of time between the completion of the Pfizer shots and the booster for individuals 12 years of age and older. In addition, a third dose of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was approved for certain immunocompromised individuals age 5 through 11. These FDA-approved EUAs for COVID-19 vaccines are proven to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and also lessen the severity of COVID-19 symptoms;

3. All Navajo Nation employees, within the Navajo Nation Divisions, Departments, programs, offices, Chapters, and Enterprises, were mandated to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by September 29, 2021, see Executive Order No. 007-2021,

As an update and revision to Executive Order No. 007-2021, incorporating the latest federal guidance on COVID-19 vaccinations:

   a. All employees, regular, part-time, and temporary, must have provided proof of COVID-19 vaccination to their immediate supervisor or before September 29, 2021. With the amended EUA issued by the FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all employees, regular, part-time, and temporary, must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination booster status by January 24, 2022. COVID-19 vaccination shall mean the primary vaccine series and booster(s); providing proof of a booster(s), when eligible, shall be made to the immediate supervisor by January 24, 2022 or, if the booster is received after January 24, 2022, within 5 days of receiving the booster. An employee who fails to provide proof of vaccination, as required, is considered to be unvaccinated and subject to the requirements below.

   b. It is reaffirmed, any employee who remains unvaccinated, for any reason, after September 29, 2021, or the booster notification of January 24, 2022, shall provide a negative COVID-19 test result from a medical provider to their immediate supervisor. It is reaffirmed, such employee shall submit a negative COVID-19 test result to their immediate supervisor at least once every fourteen (14) days.

   c. It is reaffirmed, 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;


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 10th day of January 2022

Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

ATTEST: Doreen N. McPaul, Attorney General
Navajo Nation Department of Justice
PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM

January 11, 2022

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-01
Public Health Emergency Order Reemphasizing “Safer at Home” Order and
Addressing Travel Recommendations

I. Paragraphs I – IX from Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 are included with
this Public Health Order, addressing the various Navajo Nation (Nation) authorities
related to the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

II. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-01 is to
reemphasize the “Safer-at-Home” requirements and address travel recommendations.
The requirements of this Order may be extended or changed in a future order. These
measures are intended to further ensure an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic
by restricting movement of individuals on the Nation to limit contact to prevent the
spread of the virus and minimize the strain on medical response capabilities. 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. Wearing a mask in public continues to be mandatory (Public Health Emergency Order No.
2021-015, August 4, 2021).

IV. The Navajo Nation is experiencing an extreme upward trajectory (increasing) of cases.
The Navajo Nation remains vigilant as neighboring states are experiencing an increase of
the Omicron and other COVID variants continue to remain a threat. The Navajo Nation
has documented new cases of COVID-19 Omicron (B.1.1.529) within the Navajo Nation.
According to the CDC, the Omicron variant seem to spread more easily and quickly than
the other previous variants, including Delta. Breakthrough infections are expected and
some treatments are not as effective against infection with Omicron. 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.

V. The safest place continues to be at home. According to the Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention, “CDC is expecting a surge of COVID-19 cases in the coming days to weeks
and Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don’t
have symptoms.”
VI. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “delay travel until you are fully vaccinated” and “Getting vaccinated is still the best way to protect yourself from severe disease, slow the spread of COVID-19, and reduce the number of new variants.”

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’s Safer at Home Public Health Emergency Order is still in effect and has not been rescinded. Under this Safer at Home Order, individuals are required to exercise personal responsibility to remain safe, but are not ordered to stay home.

   1. Individuals must continue to exercise caution when engaging in public activities and practice everyday preventive actions, which include: wearing a mask in public, practicing social (physical) distancing, disinfecting high-touch surfaces, avoiding unnecessary travel, avoiding unnecessary public gatherings, and washing hands for 20 seconds.

   2. Individuals with COVID-19, or who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, are required to stay home and away from other people.

B. Gathering limits of 15 or fewer persons for the following:

   1. Social gatherings.

   2. Traditional ceremonies, consistent with Navajo Health Command Operations Center guidelines.

   3. Outdoor recreational events, consistent with Navajo Health Command Operations Center’s guidelines. This includes walks, runs, bike rides, motorcycle events and similar events.

   4. Churches and other houses of worship, consistent with Navajo Health Command Operations Center guidelines. Bible study group meetings of 15 or fewer people are permitted, consistent with the in-person training and meeting guideline.

   5. Youth programs, consistent with Navajo Health Command Operations Center guidelines (Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-017, August 12, 2021).

C. Gathering limits of 25 or fewer persons remain in effect for in-person meeting and training, consistent with Navajo Health Command Operations Center guidelines.

D. “Drive-in” gatherings up to 50 vehicles are permitted if the organizers and participants adhere to the requirements herein. Such gatherings include parking lot gatherings for internet access, religious services, funeral services, graduations (consistent with Health Command Operation’s guideline), and similar events. Organizers must ensure the following are in place:

   1. Outdoor “drive-in” gatherings only where people from the same vehicle remain in their vehicles.

   2. Vehicles are parked at least six (6) feet from other vehicles, in all four directions.
3. Organizers and participants wear masks.
4. Gathering is conducted in a no-contact manner and maintaining social distancing standards.

E. **All Businesses** must continue to comply with the requirements of Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-017 Implementing “Orange Status” for Businesses (August 12, 2021) or subsequent Order. Businesses must continue to address safety measures through policy and procedures of the following:

1. Ensure physical distance between personnel, customers, and any member of the public at the place of business is maximized, and that keeping six-feet between persons is possible at all times. Temperature screening for customers is optional but highly encouraged when transmission of cases increases.
2. Wearing a mask in public continues to be mandatory (Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-015, August 4, 2021).
3. Provide standards for how to respond to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 among employees. The policies and procedures shall further provide contact information for the nearest healthcare facility, and such information posted conspicuously at the place of business (e.g., informational poster). The place of business shall contact the healthcare facility immediately in the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 to consult about next steps. Places of business shall report suspected or confirmed cases to the Navajo Health Command Operation Center by calling (928) 871-7014 or the HCOC portal (available at [https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19](https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19)).

F. There is no daily curfew in effect; however, the Nation’s curfew for children pursuant to Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code remains in full force and effect.

G. Due to the current Omicron variant surge, travel recommendations are as follows:

1. Delay travel until you are fully vaccinated or received a booster vaccine dose (if eligible).
2. Avoid all unnecessary travel.
3. Stay home if you are sick or in quarantine, unless seeking medical attention.
4. Use alternative methods, such as virtual or telephonic, for meetings and appointments.
5. Consider testing before and after traveling as a precaution.

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

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that it is greatly advised that the public take the following preventive precautions against COVID-19:

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
3. To the extent possible, avoid touching high touch surfaces in public places—elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking with people, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hands or finger if you must touch something.

4. Wear a mask and avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.

5. Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, and cell phones).

6. Refrain from gathering with individuals outside your household who are not yet fully vaccinated or received a booster vaccine dose (if eligible).

7. Limit unnecessary travel.

8. Get an influenza (flu) vaccination as soon as possible and when safe to do so, and in accordance with the above requirements.

9. All persons are highly encouraged to become fully vaccinated or receive a booster vaccine dose (if eligible) as soon as possible and when safe to do so, and in accordance with the above requirements.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take effect on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 5:00 A.M. MST and shall remain in effect until otherwise rescinded or modified by a subsequent Order.

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 11TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

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

Dr. JiiJih, Executive Director
Navajo Department of Health
Health Command Operations Center
**Definitions**

**Drive-In:** means attending a gathering without leaving one’s car.

**Gathering:** means any grouping together of individuals in a single connected location. (From Public Health Emergency Order dated March 18, 2020).

**Social Distancing Requirements:** Physical distancing by limiting contact of people within 6 feet from each other. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020).

**Social Distancing Standards:** Physical distancing by not shaking hands, standing several feet away from other people, avoiding crowds, etc.) (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020).