



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 29, 2022

## **132 new cases and one recent death related to COVID-19 reported**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Friday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 132 new COVID-19 cases for the Navajo Nation and one recent death. The total number of deaths is 1,860. 568,521 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The overall total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 60,858, including three delayed reported cases. A new case is defined as a positive test within the last 72-hours. Some cases are due to delayed reporting from the states. Any positive tests from beyond the last 72-hours are considered delayed.

The Navajo Nation remains in “yellow status,” in accordance with Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-004. On Friday, NDOH issued COVID-19 safety guidelines for the election polling and voters for in-person voting on the Navajo Nation, available online at: <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.

“The Navajo Nation continues to experience high community transmission of COVID-19 and we recommend all individuals to wear a well-fitting mask indoors and at any large gatherings. We also encourage everyone to stay up-to-date on all COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. If you are feeling sick, make sure you are following all isolation and quarantine guidelines. Continue to stay vigilant and stay safe throughout the weekend,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Health care facilities on the Navajo Nation continue to administer COVID-19 vaccines. If you would like to receive one of the COVID-19 vaccines, please contact your health care provider and schedule an appointment.

“Through the support and strength of our family members and friends, we continue to persevere through this pandemic. There are many challenges along the way, but we have the guidance to push back on COVID-19. Please continue to be safe and please keep praying for our people, frontline workers, and those who are isolating at this moment,” 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.

# THE NAVAJO NATION

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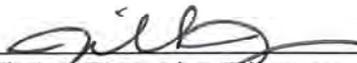
JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

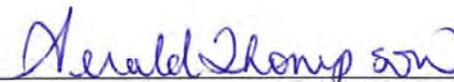


## MEMORANDUM

TO: Polling Workers, Voters, Candidates, and Other Groups

FROM:

  
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Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director  
Navajo Department of Health  
Health Command Operations Center

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

DATE: July 29, 2022

SUBJECT: **2022 COVID-19 Safety Guideline for Election Polling and Voters for In-Person Voting on the Navajo Nation**

This guideline is intended for voters, poll workers, candidates, and other groups participating in voting activities. Polling sites may be located at chapter houses, senior centers, schools, and other facilities.

The following are best practices in keeping everyone safe while voting on the Navajo Nation.

### **Everyone's Safety is Important**

1. Practice the three W's
  - a. **Wear a Mask:** Wear masks indoors and outdoors in accordance with current public health emergency orders. Masks do not have to be worn when eating and drinking.
  - b. **Wash Hands:** Use hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol or hand washing stations that are convenient, and accessible for all. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - c. **Watch Distance:** Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet.
2. Self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival.
3. Stay home when sick with COVID-19 symptoms.
4. Get updated flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.

## **Practice Healthy Behaviors as Voters**

1. Voters are encouraged to rideshare or carpool with individuals from their immediate household only to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19, and to remain in the vehicle to the maximum extent possible.
2. Voters should consider early voting options to avoid long lines and waiting times on Election Day.
3. Avoid crowding and please follow physical distancing requirements.

## **Keeping Sites Safe and Healthy - Polling Site Coordination**

1. Post signage: Prohibit anyone who is sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms from entering the space and emphasize the 3 w's (wearing a mask, watching physical distance, and washing hands).
2. Require volunteers, staff, and contractors to conduct self-screening for COVID-19, and if available, rapid antigen testing.
3. Provide safety training and education on COVID-19 for support staff.
4. Provide masks and other PPE for poll workers and voters, such as masks and sanitizer wipes.
5. Monitor physical distancing, while voters are waiting and when exiting. For example, put markers on the floor to ensure physical distancing of 6 feet between persons.
6. Avoid crowded areas, especially when indoors and there is no fresh air from the outdoors, if you are at increased risk of getting sick from COVID-19.
7. Sanitize and disinfect high touch surface areas throughout the day, e.g., door handles, pens.
8. Ensure safe disinfection of electronic voting equipment to not damage devices.
9. Provide hand sanitizer at door entrances and exits for voters to use before entering and exiting the polling site.
10. Increase the circulation of indoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans or other methods.
11. Ensure that ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate correctly.
12. Food vendors must follow the Navajo Nation Food Handler Training and Food Service Permit Protocols by the Navajo Environmental Health & Protection Program.
  - a. Use single-use disposable plates, cups, utensils, and prepackaged condiments.
  - b. Limit crowding where the food is served.
  - c. Sites and/or groups must provide To-Go meals for voters and others. No outdoor dining is permitted.
  - d. For more information about temporary food permits, visit at <https://ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/Department/Division-of-Public-Health-Service/Office-of-Environmental-Health-Protection> and if you have questions, please contact us at (928) 871-6349.
13. Curbside voting options can be made available to reduce transmission and support voters with disabilities and others who may not be able to leave their vehicle.

14. It is recommended that election officials secure alternate poll workers in case of COVID-19 exposure and infection. Polling site workers should ensure potential exposures are reported and mitigated appropriately, and create a plan to temporarily close operations of potential exposures until the area is cleaned and disinfected. Also, report all COVID-19 cases to the local health care facility and HCOC COVID-19 at (928) 871-7014.

### **Partisan and Non-Partisan Voting Groups**

All partisan and non-partisan voting groups are encouraged to coordinate their activities with the Navajo Nation Health Command Center and Navajo Nation Department of Justice Economic and Community Development Unit to ensure compliance with this guideline.

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

cc: File  
Navajo Elections Office