



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 17, 2022

**Over one-week period, 417 new cases and two deaths related to COVID-19 reported, 45 communities identified with high COVID-19 transmission**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Thursday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 417 new COVID-19 cases for the Navajo Nation and two recent deaths over a one-week period from November 10 – 17, 2022. The total number of deaths is now 1,952. 625,537 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The overall total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 77,912, including 115 delayed reported cases.

Based on cases from November 3 – 16, 2022, the Navajo Department of Health issued a Health Advisory Notice for the following 45 communities due to high transmission of COVID-19:

Baca/Prewitt	Dennehotso	Many Farms	Red Valley	Teesto
Bread Springs	Gadiiahi	Naschitti	Rock Point	Thoreau
Chichiltah	Ganado	Newcomb	Rock Springs	Tohajiilee
Chinle	Hogback	Pinedale	Rough Rock	Tohatchi
Churchrock	Indian Wells	Pinon	Sanostee	Tsaile/Wheatfields
Counselor	Inscription House	Pueblo Pintado	Sheepsprings	Tsayatoh
Cove	Iyanbito	Ramah	Shiprock	Tselani/Cottonwood
Coyote Canyon	Kayenta	Red Lake	Tachee/Blue Gap	Twin Lakes
Crownpoint	Lukachukai	Red Rock	Teecnospos	Upper Fruitland

This week, the Department of Health issued two public health orders, No. 2022-009 and No. 2022-010, updating the mask mandates and gathering limits. The public health orders are available at <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov>.

“We urge our Navajo citizens to update their COVID-19 vaccines, boosters and flu shots. If you are feeling ill, please get tested, and get necessary treatment if needed. Wearing a mask and washing your hands are still the best practices to preventive contracting illnesses. Together, we can prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Please stay safe throughout the week,” 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.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost a loved one to COVID-19 and who are also recovering from the illness. Please continue to be safe while attending large gatherings. Be safe and say a prayer for a safe week,” 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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# THE NAVAJO NATION



JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

November 17, 2022

## Navajo Department of Health Health Advisory Notice (HAN) COVID-19 Community Advisory No. 104 —Safety Precautions

**WINDOW ROCK, AZ** – The Navajo Health Command Operations Center is issuing high transmission of COVID-19 advisory for the following communities. The cases reflect dates November 3 – 16, 2022. The advisory will be in effect until the high transmission and cases decline.

The following communities are identified as having uncontrolled spread of COVID-19:

Baca/Prewitt	Dennehotso	Many Farms	Red Valley	Teesto
Bread Springs	Gadiiahi	Naschitti	Rock Point	Thoreau
Chichiltah	Ganado	Newcomb	Rock Springs	Tohajiilee
Chinle	Hogback	Pinedale	Rough Rock	Tohatchi
Churchrock	Indian Wells	Pinon	Sanostee	Tsaile/Wheatfields
Counselor	Inscription House	Pueblo Pintado	Sheepsprings	Tsayatoh
Cove	Iyanbito	Ramah	Shiprock	Tselani/Cottonwood
Coyote Canyon	Kayenta	Red Lake	Tachee/Blue Gap	Twin Lakes
Crownpoint	Lukachukai	Red Rock	Tecnospos	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.

<b>People at Increased Risk for Severe Illness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Older Adults</li><li>• Cancer</li><li>• Chronic kidney disease</li><li>• Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</li><li>• Heart conditions</li><li>• Immunocompromised state</li><li>• Obesity and severe obesity</li><li>• Pregnancy</li><li>• Sickle cell disease</li><li>• Smoking</li><li>• Type 2 diabetes mellitus</li></ul>	<b>Might be at Increased Risk for Severe Illness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asthma</li><li>• Cerebrovascular disease</li><li>• Cystic fibrosis</li><li>• Hypertension or high blood pressure</li><li>• Immunocompromised state</li><li>• Neurologic conditions, such as dementia</li><li>• Liver disease</li><li>• Overweight</li><li>• Pulmonary fibrosis</li><li>• Thalassemia</li><li>• Type 1 diabetes mellitus</li></ul>
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All residents should practice health and safety measures:

- Get vaccinated.
- 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.

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.navajonnsn.gov/COVID-19> . For COVID-19 related questions and information, call (928) 871-7014.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER  
NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**November 14, 2022**

**Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-009  
Updating the Mandate to Wear Masks in Indoors, Including Schools and Businesses, Due to  
COVID-19**

- I. Paragraphs I – IX from Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 are included in 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. 2022-009 is to prevent community spread of COVID-19 on the Nation.
- III. The Navajo Nation is continuing to experience a downward trajectory (decreasing) of cases. The Navajo Nation remains vigilant as neighboring states have lifted mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Navajo Nation has documented new cases of COVID-19 Omicron sublineages (BA.4 and BA.5) within the Navajo Nation. According to the CDC, the Omicron variant seem to spread more easily and quickly than the other previous variants. CDC continues to identify Omicron variants of concern such as BQ.1 and BQ.1.1. 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.
- IV. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Masks can help protect you and others from COVID-19” and “wear a mask when there is a lot of COVID in your community,” and most importantly, “people with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.”

**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. All individuals on the Nation two (2) years of age and older shall wear **masks** while in **indoors**.
- B. A **Mask** is defined to mean a covering designed to filter one’s breathing through both the nose and mouth. A mask must snugly cover the face around the nose and mouth to prevent the wearer from breathing unfiltered air. May be a commercially-made face mask, or a homemade cloth face covering such as those found on the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>


**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 to protect against COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses:

1. Avoid contact with people who are sick and avoid crowded areas.
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. Wear a mask indoors and avoid touching your face, nose, and eyes.
4. Clean and disinfect your home and surroundings to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
5. Limit unnecessary travel.
6. All persons 6 months and older are highly encouraged to get influenza (flu) vaccination as soon as possible.
7. All persons age 6 months and older are highly encouraged to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination, including the updated booster vaccine dose that is recommended for you.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that this Order shall take effect Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:00 A.M. MST, and shall remain in effect until otherwise ended by a subsequent Public Health Emergency Order.

**ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.**

  
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JayDiamond Taliman, Program Supervisor I  
Navajo Office of Environmental Health & Protection Program  
Navajo Department of Health

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER  
NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**November 14, 2022**

**Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-010  
Public Health Emergency Order Reemphasizing “Safer at Home” Order and Updating  
Gathering Limits**

- 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. 2022-010 is to reemphasize the “Safer-at-Home” requirements and update gathering limits. 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. 2022-009, November 14, 2022).
- IV. The Navajo Nation is continuing to experience a downward trajectory (decreasing) of cases. The Navajo Nation remains vigilant as neighboring states have lifted mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Navajo Nation has documented new cases of COVID-19 Omicron sublineages (BA.4 and BA.5) within the Navajo Nation. According to the CDC, the Omicron variant seem to spread more easily and quickly than the other previous variants. CDC continues to identify Omicron variants of concern such as BQ.1 and BQ.1.1. 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. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **“delay travel when sick or tested positive for COVID-19” 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 No. 2022-005 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 indoors, practicing social (physical) distancing, disinfecting high-touch surfaces, avoiding unnecessary travel, and washing hands for 20 seconds.
  2. Individuals with COVID-19, or who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are required to stay home and away from other people.
- B.** Gather safely in group settings by following the COVID-19 safe practice guidelines for the following:
1. Social gatherings
  2. Traditional ceremonies
  3. Youth programs
  4. Holiday gatherings
  5. In-person meetings and trainings
  6. Churches and other houses of worship, including bible study groups
  7. Outdoor recreational events
  8. Drive-in gatherings
  9. Fair events
  10. Outdoor gatherings
- C.** Gyms, wellness centers, and recreation facilities will be allowed at 100% of maximum occupancy, consistent with Navajo Health Command Operations Center COVID-19 safe practice guidelines.
- D. All Businesses** must continue to comply with the Navajo Health Command Operations Center COVID-19 Safe Practices Guideline at latest news <https://www.ndoh.navajonnsn.gov/COVID-19>. Businesses must continue to address safety measures through policy and procedures of the following:
1. All businesses must keep an up-to-date COVID-19 safety plan. This includes:
    - Standards for how to respond to confirmed cases of COVID-19 among employees. Stay home when an employee is sick with COVID-19.
    - Maintain proper ventilation.
    - Promote employee wellness and encourage up to date COVID and flu vaccinations.
    - Post signage of mask wearing requirements from current public health emergency orders.



- Provide employees with masks.
  - Encourage physical distancing by avoiding crowded areas.
- E. All Schools** must comply with the Navajo Health Command Operations Center guideline for schools. School must continue to comply with the COVID-19 Safe School Guideline that include core prevention strategies and optional testing strategies. The core prevention strategies focus on the following: vaccination, ventilation, illness policy, COVID-19 testing, masks, cluster investigation, hygiene and cleaning, and physical distancing (available at latest news <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>).
1. All schools must submit a School Mitigation Plan and Assurance form to the Department of Diné Education at [schoolreopening@nndode.org](mailto:schoolreopening@nndode.org).
  2. Require students, staff and visitors to stay home if they are sick.
- 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.

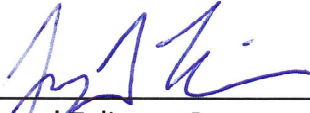
**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that this Order shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements (consistent with HIPAA privacy standards).

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that it is greatly advised that the public take the following preventive precautions to protect against COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses:

1. Avoid contact with people who are sick and avoid crowded areas.
2. Anyone with cold or flu like symptoms should get tested and stay away from others while awaiting test results.
3. 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.
4. Wear a mask indoors and avoid touching your face, nose, and eyes.
5. Clean and disinfect your home and surroundings to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
6. Limit unnecessary travel.
7. All persons age 6 months and older are highly encouraged to get an influenza (flu) vaccination as soon as possible.
8. All persons age 6 months and older are highly encouraged to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination, including the updated booster vaccine dose that is recommended for you.

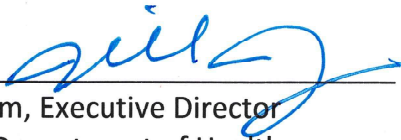
**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that this Order shall take effect on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:00 A.M. MST and shall remain in effect until otherwise rescinded or modified by a subsequent Order.

**ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November, 2022.**



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JayDiamond Taliman, Program Supervisor I  
Navajo Office of Environmental Health & Protection Program  
Navajo Department of Health



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Dr. Jill Jim, 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).