

**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.**

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

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