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.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19](https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.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](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.
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.
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 14th DAY OF November, 2022.

JayDiamond Taliman, Program Supervisor I
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Navajo Department of Health

Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director
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Definitions

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


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).