



Navajo Health Command Operations Center
Navajo Department of Health

Media Contacts:
Crystalayne Curley, Public Information Officer
(928) 871-6362
(928) 274-2758
coronavirus.info@nndoh.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2020

Navajo Department of Health issues Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-029 amendment, in regards to Navajo Nation grocery stores and schools

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Nov. 15, the Navajo Department of Health issued Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-029 (Amendment), declaring a "Red Status" for businesses operating due to the uncontrolled community spread of COVID-19 in several communities on the Navajo Nation.

During "Red Status," the amendment states, "grocery stores on the Navajo Nation, including Bahas', Lowe's, and City Market, should have a capacity limit of 30 or 50 customers at a time. It also states that all retail food stores will monitor all customers' entry, ensure customers comply with social distancing protocols, enhance sanitation practice of frequently touched areas, and allow only one shopper per family, except for an accompanying caregiver.

The "Red Status – High Restrictions" of the reopening status schedule also consists of the following conditions:

- Grocery Stores shall follow the Limitations and Operational Procedures established by the Navajo Nation Office of Environmental Health and Protection Program. Available at: https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/COVID-19/News/Retail%20Store.pdf?ver=ReZvuShufUowcUrhNQeu_w%3d%3d×tamp=1586539874656.
- Gas stations: 5 persons or less in the store
- Laundry facilities: 10 persons or less and two people per household
- Dining or waiting establishments: allowed drive-thru only (food, banks, financial institutions)
- Adhere to compliance with the curfew
- Not Allowed in Red Phase: Youth Programs, Casinos, video poker, museums, barbershops, hair salons, nail salons, flea markets, roadside markets, marinas, parks, gyms, and recreation facilities

The Nation's color status will vary over time. It will depend on several gating criteria and other public health considerations that indicate how well COVID-19 on the Nation is contained and how well the Nation can manage it. The decision about which status the Nation is in at any given time will be made by the Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center (NHCOCC).

Only essential businesses (gas stations, grocery stores, laundromats, restaurants, food establishments, and hay vendors) will be allowed to operate during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (MST) daily – weekdays and weekends.

Restrictions do not apply to Essential Employees reporting to or from duty at an Essential Business. Employees must have official identification or a letter of designation from their employer on official letterhead, including a contact name and number for verification.

Furthermore, schools located on the Navajo Nation are essential entities, and restrictions, including closure, do not apply to the school and its' essential employees, such as school employees reporting to and from duty. In-person special education services will be suspended during the duration of the three-week stay-at-home lockdown. The HCOC supports the continuation of online or distance learning for all schools and students on and near the Navajo Nation during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the students, staff, and communities' safety and wellbeing.

To view Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-029 (Amendment), visit <https://www.ndoh.navajonnsn.gov/Portals/0/PDF/PHE/NDOH%20Public%20Health%20Emergency%20Order%202020-029%20Amendment%20Dikos%20Ntsaaigii-19.pdf>.

For more general COVID-19 information, helpful prevention tips, and more resources, please visit the Navajo Department of Health's COVID-19 website at <http://www.ndoh.navajonnsn.gov/COVID-19> or on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram search @navajodephealth. To contact the primary Navajo Health Command Operations Center, please email coronavirus.info@nndoh.org or call (928) 871-7014.

###

Editors' Note: Media may contact the Navajo Health Command Operations Center at (928) 274-2758 for additional background on the new Public Health Orders or to coordinate an interview with a member of the Navajo Health Command Operations Center.

Dr. Jill Jim
Executive Director
Navajo Department of Health

Lucinda Charleston
Deputy Incident Commander
Health Command Operations Center