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Taos County  
COVID-19 Press Release  
March, 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

ONE NEW POSITIVE TEST IN TAOS COUNTY

TAOS COUNTY IMPLEMENTS NEW PRECAUTIONS

**Update:**

As of 10:00 am today March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 according to the NM DOH website, the total number of positive cases in New Mexico is **35**

Yesterday evening Holy Cross Medical Center announced a new positive COVID-19 test result. An elderly female was tested on March 16<sup>th</sup> in the Emergency Department. The results of the test were received today. The individual had been in self quarantine at home for 5 days prior to being tested. She has also been in self quarantine at home since her testing. According to a press release from Holy Cross, an Emergency Department practitioner has spoken with the individual over the phone since the results of her test and she reports feeling better. The medical providers that had been in contact with her have been informed. The individual reported traveling prior to feeling ill.

Taos County EMS was involved in the care of this individual; the crew was wearing all the appropriate personal protective equipment and has not reported any symptoms. They are being closely monitored and have self-isolated per recommendation of the DOH.

Taos County is continuing to implement measures to help slow the spread of the virus, as well as provide for the safety of the First Responders and medical workers within the County. One such measure is that our 911 Dispatch Center is diligently screening all calls for medical service to get more accurate information to all the First Responders working in the field. This allows the responders to better care for the individual and to wear the appropriate personal protection equipment.

Taos County Sheriff's Office is also concerned with the elderly and disabled within our community. If you have a concern about a family member, friend, or neighbor you haven't seen or heard from we will gladly do a welfare check and provide assistance to them as needed. The number to call is 758-2216.

### **Taos County Complex Operations:**

Taos County is asking the public that if you need to come to the complex in person for essential business, please come between the hours of 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

We are encouraging the public to conduct business with the County over the phone or by email if possible. The main phone number is (575) 737-6300.

If you have essential business that requires you to visit the County Complex, you will be greeted at the front desk by a staff member. You may be asked some screening questions before you proceed. This is in an attempt to better protect the staff and other patrons of the Complex.

We are encouraging the public to pay your Solid Waste and Property Tax bills on the website: [www.taoscounty.org](http://www.taoscounty.org)

In accordance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 announcement, County residents are prohibited from attending the County Commission meetings in-person. Residents may view the County Commission meeting via our live feed found on the homepage of our website, [www.taoscounty.org](http://www.taoscounty.org).

**The County Commission will receive and view all public comment for its March 24, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting made through the County's webpage. Members of the public may also email individual Commissioners at any time through the County's webpage.**

Visitation to the Taos County Detention Center has been discontinued until further notice. Personnel and vendors essential to the detention's day-to-day operations will be permitted into the facility.

## How to Help Protect Yourself and Others:

The NM Department of Health along with the CDC and Office of the President are recommending a very proactive approach to help protect the public from the COVID-19 virus.

Below are the recommendations:

- **Wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds (*sing your ABC's to help with the timing*)**
- If washing your hands is not an option use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Stay at home as much as possible
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing
- **IF YOU FEEL SICK, STAY HOME**
- Utilize social distancing to limit your exposure, maintain a 6 foot distance between you and other individuals
- Avoid social gatherings if possible
- Avoid groups of 10 or more
- Avoid contact with sick individuals
- **If you suspect you have symptoms of the COVID-19 virus please call the NM Coronavirus Hotline at 1-855-600-3453 to speak with a healthcare professional about what you need to do next. This is a very busy hotline so be patient and follow their guidance.**

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