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Taos County
COVID-19 Press Release
April 2nd 2020

ONE NEW POSITIVE CASE WITHIN TAOS COUNTY

Update:

As of 10:00 AM today, April 2nd, 2020, according to the NM DOH website, the total number of positive cases in New Mexico is **363**.

As of 10:00 AM today, April 2nd, 2020 Taos County has had **1** additional positive case reported. To date, Taos County has had **12** positive cases.

NM DOH has reported that **26** individuals that had been diagnosed with COVID-19 have fully recovered.

As of today, the New Mexico Department of Health has confirmed **6** COVID-19 related deaths within New Mexico. The most recent case was a female in her 90s from Sandoval County who died Tuesday, March 31. The individual was hospitalized and had underlying medical conditions

NM Department of Health is reporting that there are **31** individuals hospitalized in New Mexico for COVID-19. This number may include individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 out of state but are currently hospitalized in New Mexico. This number does not include New Mexicans who tested positive for COVID-19 and may have been transferred to a hospital out of state.

Department of Health Online Screening Tool:

The NM Department of Health has launched a new online screening tool to assist people with deciding if they should be tested for COVID-19. Click the link below to use the tool. As with any online tool, using this DOES NOT diagnose if you are positive for COVID-19, it is just a tool to help you decide if you should pursue being tested.

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/should-i-get-tested/>

New Taos County Hours of Operation:

In accordance with the current Public Health Order, Taos County will be restricting its hours of operation as well as its staffing levels.

Starting March 30th 2020 Taos County will have a number of employees start working from home to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The County Complex will only be open to the public from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday through Friday with limited staff per department.

We strongly discourage operations in the county building if it is not of crucial priority. If you absolutely need to handle business at the County Complex, you will be directed to the front desk. Please mind the 6-foot distant barriers. A staff member will ascertain your business and you will be asked a series of questions. If the answer to any of the following questions is “yes,” visitors will respectfully be denied entry.

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

We are encouraging the public to pay your Solid Waste and Property Tax bills on the website:
www.taoscounty.org

Taos County Sheriff’s Office, Fire and EMS personnel, Office of Emergency Management, Taos County Detention Center and Taos Central Dispatch will continue to operate as normal. Public Works, Fleet Department and Solid Waste Operations will continue working normal hours with minor exceptions.

What if I Feel Sick?

If you feel like you have the symptoms of the Coronavirus please call the state Coronavirus Hotline at 1-855-600-3453. They will ask you questions and will give guidance on what step you

should take next. This is a very busy hotline so you may not get through on the first attempt. Please be patient and follow their guidance.

Signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus are:

- Fever (100.4 F or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Symptoms may also, but not necessarily, include:

- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Headache
- General feeling of being unwell

For the most recent updates from the DOH please visit

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/newsroom/>

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 unless it is absolutely necessary
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing
- **IF YOU FEEL SICK, STAY HOME**
- If a family member is sick, try and isolate them from the rest of the family as best as possible
- 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 more than 5 people
- 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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