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Taos County  
COVID-19 Press Release  
April 4th 2020

NEW CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

**Update:**

As of 4:00 PM today, April 4th, 2020, according to the NM DOH website, the total number of positive cases in New Mexico is **543**.

As of 4:00 PM today, April 4th, 2020 Taos County has had no new cases reported. To date, Taos County has had **13** positive cases.

NM DOH has reported that **54** individuals that had been diagnosed with COVID-19 have fully recovered.

As of today, the New Mexico Department of Health has confirmed **11** COVID-19 related deaths within New Mexico. The most recent case was A male in his 60s from McKinley County who died Saturday, April 4. The individual was hospitalized and had underlying medical conditions.

NM Department of Health is reporting that there are **37** 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.

## **New CDC Recommendations:**

The CDC is now recommending wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

Due to the ongoing need for personal protective equipment for our healthcare workers, we are asking that you use non-medical masks, such as homemade cloth masks, dust masks and the like. Medical grade masks and Personal Protection Equipment are critical to the hospital staff, first responders, and other healthcare workers that continue to strive to care for our community.

To find out more please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

## **Please Stay at Home:**

Taos County is strongly recommending that people continue to follow the social distancing rules that have been put in place.

Please only leave your home for essential reasons, such as getting groceries or going to a doctors' appointment.

We are also asking businesses that have been allowed to stay open to make every effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This can be done by limiting the number of people inside the business, providing curb-side service, and reminding patrons of the 6 foot distancing rule.

## **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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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