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Taos County
COVID-19 Press Release
April 10th 2020

TAOS COUNTY HAS NO NEW CASES ACCORDING TO DOH

Update:

As of 4:00 PM today, April 10th, 2020, according to the NM DOH website, the total number of positive cases in New Mexico is 1,091.

As of 4:00 PM today, April 10th, 2020 Taos County has no new confirmed cases. To date, Taos County has had 15 positive cases.

NM DOH has reported that 235 individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 have now fully recovered.

As of today, the New Mexico Department of Health has confirmed 19 COVID-19 related deaths within New Mexico. The most recent cases were:

- A male in his 90s from Bernalillo County. The individual had underlying medical conditions.
- A male in his 80s from Sandoval County. The individual was hospitalized and had underlying medical conditions.

NM Department of Health is reporting that there are **75** 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.

Taos County Sheriff's Office Informational Check Points:

The Taos County Sheriff's Office has been conducting informational check points at the County borders. They are providing handouts to drivers that outline the highlights of the Public Health Order as well as answering questions from motorists. According to Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe, almost all of the motorists have been very receptive and thankful for the checkpoints.

The checkpoints so far have been located on Hwy 285 at the Colorado border as well as Hwy 522 at the Colorado border.

They have also held check points at the County border on Hwy 518 and Hwy 68.

According to Sheriff Hogrefe 720 vehicles and over 1,200 people have received handouts.

Taos County Complex by Appointment Only Starting Wednesday April 8th:

To help slow the spread of the coronavirus, the Taos County Administrative Complex has been assisting the public by appointment only beginning on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. The appointments will be scheduled between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call the respective departments as follows:

County Administration (575) 737-6300
County Assessor (575) 737-6360
County Clerk (575) 737-6380
Bureau of Elections (575) 737-6400
County Probate Judge (575) 737-6391 (Mondays only)
Planning Department (575) 737-6440
County Treasurer (575) 737-6340
Solid Waste Administration (575) 737-6337

Please allow for a 24 - 48 hour response time to schedule your appointment.

We encourage the public to pay your property taxes and solid waste bills online at www.taoscounty.org

Taos County Emergency Services will still be providing emergency services.

Taos County Fire & EMS:

The Taos County Fire & EMS administration is working with businesses in the county to make sure that they have an accurate occupancy load. Under the new directives from the Governor's Office, some businesses are required to only allow 20% of their maximum capacity inside at one time.

We understand that some businesses may not be certain what their occupancy load is, and we want to make sure that the local businesses have the information they need to comply with the Public Health Order.

If a business is unsure of what their occupancy load is, they can contact the Taos County Fire Marshal at (575) 737-6457 or they can email him at james.hampton@taoscounty.org

Note: Businesses within the Town of Taos Fire Dept. response area will need to contact the Town of Taos FD to receive their occupancy load. Those areas are; within the Town of Taos city limits, Talpa, El Prado south of the old blinking light, Ranchos De Taos, Llano Quemado, and Hwy 240.

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.**

For non-emergency or non-healthcare related questions please contact the Department of Health at 1-833-551-0518

Contact: James Hampton, PIO

Office: (575) 737-6457

Email: james.hampton@taoscounty.org

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