Taos County
COVID-19 Press Release
March, 23\textsuperscript{nd} 2020

NO NEW CASES WITHIN TAOS COUNTY

Update:

As of 10:00 am today, March 23\textsuperscript{nd}, 2020, according to the NM DOH website, the total number of positive cases in New Mexico is 65.

As of 10:00 AM today no new positive cases have been reported within Taos County. The last positive case within the County was a female in her 50’s on March 21\textsuperscript{st}.

We understand the hardships that our local businesses and families are facing during these difficult times. We want to continue to encourage the public to follow the restrictions that have been put in place by the Department of Health. These restrictions are intended to slow the spread of the virus. We, the residents of Taos County must all work as a team to continue to protect our communities and families.

As always, our Emergency Services are continuing to respond to all calls for service. Our dispatchers are continuing to screen all medical calls with questions that will better help our responders in the field be better prepared for calls that could be COVID-19 related.
The Sherriff’s Office continues to serve and protect the County while also conducting welfare checks when requested. If you have an elderly or disabled family member, friend, or neighbor that you have not heard from in awhile the Sheriff’s Deputies would be glad to help. The number to call for a welfare check is (575) 758-2216.

The Taos County Office of Emergency Management is continuing to work with the Department of Health to stay informed of the most recent developments.

**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/](https://cv.nmhealth.org/newsroom/)

**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

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.

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.

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.**

Contact: James Hampton, PIO
Office: (575) 737-6457
Email: james.hampton@taoscounty.org

########################