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Taos County
COVID-19 Press Release
March, 29th 2020

NO NEW CASES WITHIN TAOS COUNTY

Update:

As of 10:00 AM today, March 29TH, 2020, according to the NM DOH website, the total number of positive cases in New Mexico is **208**.

As of 10:00 AM today, March 29, 2020 Taos County has not had any new positive cases. To date, Taos County has had **9** positive cases.

As of today, the New Mexico Department of Health has confirmed **2** COVID-19 related deaths within New Mexico. The most recent was a man in his 80's in Bernalillo County on Friday the 27th. He was reported to have had underlying medical conditions.

NM Department of Health are reporting that there are **19** 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.

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

New Public Health Order:

On March 27th the Governor issued an Executive Order that will require any individuals that travel to NM by air to shelter in place for 14 days. According to a press release from the Governor's Office, individuals traveling to NM are expected to shelter in place voluntarily but may be placed into mandated quarantine if required.

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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