

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM**

August 19, 2022

**Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-007
Updating the Mandate to Wear Masks in Indoors and Outdoors (less than 6 feet), Including
Schools and Businesses, Due to COVID-19**

- I. Paragraphs I – IX from Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 are included in this Public Health Order, addressing the various Navajo Nation (Nation) authorities related to the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- II. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2022-007 is to prevent community spread of COVID-19 on the Nation.
- III. The Navajo Nation is experiencing a slight downward trajectory (decreasing) of cases. The Navajo Nation remains vigilant as neighboring states have lifted mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Navajo Nation has documented new cases of COVID-19 Omicron sublineages (BA.4 and BA.5) within the Navajo Nation. According to the CDC, the Omicron variant seem to spread more easily and quickly than the other previous variants. CDC continues to identify Omicron variants of concern. Breakthrough infections are expected and some treatments are not as effective against infection with Omicron. As coronavirus vaccines continue to be made available on the Navajo Nation, all preventative precautions should continue to be adhered to after receiving the vaccine.
- IV. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Masks can help protect you and others from COVID-19” and “wear a mask when there is a lot of COVID in your community,” and most importantly, “people with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.”
- V. According to the World Health Organization, masks should be worn in public where there is community transmission, regardless of vaccination status in, “indoor settings where ventilation is known to be poor, indoor settings that have adequate ventilation if physical distancing cannot be maintained, and in outdoor settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained,” and lastly, “masks are a key measure to reduce transmission and save lives.”

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS GIVEN that, pursuant to the power and authority set forth in the NDOH enabling legislation (NNC Resolution No. CO-50-14), and in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Public Health State of Emergency Declaration (CEM Resolution No. 20-03-11):

- A. All individuals on the Nation two (2) years of age and older shall wear **masks** while in **indoors**. **Masks are only required outdoors when individuals are less than 6 feet from each other.**
- B. A **Mask** is defined to mean a covering designed to filter one's breathing through both the nose and mouth. A mask must snugly cover the face around the nose and mouth to prevent the wearer from breathing unfiltered air. May be a commercially-made face mask, or a homemade cloth face covering such as those found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

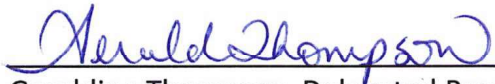
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements (consistent with HIPAA privacy standards).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that it is greatly advised that the public take the following preventive precautions:


1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
3. To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, etc.
4. Wear a mask and avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
5. Clean and disinfect your home and vehicles to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, steering wheels, door handles, gearshifts, and cell phones).
6. Refrain from gathering with individuals outside your household who are not yet vaccinated.
7. Limit unnecessary travel.
8. Get influenza (flu) vaccination as soon as possible and when safe to do so, and in accordance with the above recommendations.
9. All persons highly encouraged to get any COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible and when safe to do so, and in accordance with the above requirements.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take effect Friday, August 19, 2022 at 5:00 A.M. MDT, and shall remain in effect until otherwise ended by a subsequent Public Health Emergency Order.

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 19th DAY OF AUGUST, 2022.



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Navajo Office of Environmental Health & Protection Program
Navajo Department of Health



Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director
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