

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

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"The Mission of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department is to ensure New Mexicans receive quality care and services from qualified professionals".

New Mexico Novel Coronavirus Update and Guidance

This update is provided by the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) and the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department regarding the global outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Because **community spread** of COVID-19 has been seen in many countries around the world and now in California, Oregon and Washington, public health officials, health service providers, schools and community leaders should be prepared for the potential of community spread of COVID-19 in New Mexico.

The complete **clinical picture** of COVID-19 is not fully understood, but fever, cough and shortness of breath are the main symptoms. Most of the illnesses are mild and do not require hospitalization. Older adults and persons with some chronic medical conditions are more likely to have severe illness.

DOH is **working with healthcare providers** in the state to identify patients at risk of COVID-19, to provide testing, and to manage infection control procedures to minimize the potential spread of the virus from those who are sick. **Testing is available** now through the DOH State Scientific Laboratory (SLD) and TriCore Reference Laboratories, also, if patient testing criteria are met, throat and nasal swabs can be collected anywhere in the state and tested at SLD.

DOH has reviewed **pandemic preparedness plans** and adapted them for COVID-19. We are looking ahead and taking steps now, **in partnership with many others** in NM, to prepare for the monitoring and care of patients with COVID-19 should we have community spread in New Mexico.

Schools have been closed for a period of time, mass gatherings are prohibited, and employers are encouraged to allow for teleworking where possible. These measures have been implemented to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in New Mexico.

Everyone has a role to play in reducing the spread of respiratory viruses and following these steps will help:

- Stay home when you are sick and limit close contact with other people except for the medical care that you need.
- Cover your cough and sneezes to reduce the spread of infectious droplets and wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 95% alcohol.
- Clean “high touch” surfaces daily with regular household cleaners.
- Avoid sharing personal household items.
- If you are not sick, still wash your hands frequently when you are in places where there may be other sick people and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

As part of the state’s efforts to limit public exposure in response to the COVID-19 virus, the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department is encouraging licensees to conduct as much business transactions on-line. You can conduct your business at www.rld.state.nm.us.

The Department urges licensees who want to limit their time in public to take advantage of the on-line services available. As always, licensees can obtain answers to many of their questions about license renewals, or how to register for a license at rld.state.nm.us.

Many transactions, for example, can be done through the Department’s on-line portal via internet explorer.

Our priority during this time is to protect public health by limiting the potential impacts of COVID-19 in New Mexico.

Please visit the **NMDOH website** to stay up to date about COVID-19 in New Mexico <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>.

You can also find material on our website that can be utilized in your public establishment, under “Latest News.”

The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department regulates more than 425,000 individuals and businesses in 35 industries, professions and trades across the state. Its goal is to assure that New Mexicans receive quality services from qualified individuals and businesses while also ensuring fair and prompt administrative process.

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