



**NEW MEXICO FIRST**  
*People. Ideas. Progress.*

## **New Mexico First and Project SHARE NM Newsletter**

Stay Informed and Engaged

October 19, 2020



Drawing by [Charlize Branch](#), who says “Everyone needs to work together to fight against this disease.”



	TOTAL REPORTED	ON OCT. 18	14-DAY CHANGE
<b>Cases</b>	<b>36,788</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>+133%</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>+5%</b>

Includes confirmed and probable cases where available. 14-day change trends use 7-day averages.

## COVID SAFE Communities

Source: [New York Times](#) [About this Data](#)

After success in tamping down the spread of infection in August and September, New Mexico has experienced a sharp and alarming spread of infections, setting records for new infections daily. Two of the three hospitals in Albuquerque are now over 100% capacity and hospitals in SE New Mexico are reporting increases of 75%. This spike in infections threatens the progress we have made in reopening our businesses, schools, and community life.

Our NM public health experts tell us that until a vaccine is available, the only protection we have against this highly infectious and deadly virus is all of us practicing COVID-safe behaviors, which are now [mandated by the Governor](#).

- Wear a mask at all times when out in public;

- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from anyone outside your household;
- Stay home except for necessary outing, including shopping for necessities or health care appointments;
- Limit public gatherings to 5 persons or less.

Other restrictions:

- Temporary closing hours of 10:00 PM for all establishments serving liquor;
- Mandatory 14-day quarantine for all visitors from high-risk state, including all states neighboring NM;
- Maximum occupancy for places of lodging reduced to 60% for those that have completed the [NM Safe Certified](#) training program and 25% for those who have not.

New Mexicans following these guidelines protect not only themselves from infection but, more importantly, protect their family members, neighbors, and all the essential workers who are providing us with necessary goods and services through this crisis. Turning the curve down on COVID-19 infections will turn the curve up on reopening New Mexico.

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## **COVID-19 In Tribal Communities**

New Mexico's tribal communities have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 epidemic. Native Americans comprise about 10% of New Mexico's population but account for over one-quarter (27%) of New Mexico's COVID-19 cases.

Tribal leaders, state agencies, and community-based organizations have been

working together to provide guidance and resources to tribal communities. [NM Native Vote](#) hosted a [virtual townhall](#) last April to hear from tribal leaders, the secretaries of Indian Affairs, Health, Human Services, and Working Solutions, and community members with information about resources and with messages of hope and resilience. The website has additional resources, including a [Tribal Response Plan](#), crafted by the NM [Indian Affairs Department](#), as well as videos, posters, [social media materials in NM's native languages](#) and a [coloring book](#) to help get the word out about the virus and COVID-safe practices.

A number of mutual aid programs are also active in tribal communities. [Roanhorse Consulting \(RCLLC\)](#) has developed a [listing of resources](#) for Native communities, including [direct service and grassroots organizations](#) that are working with and for Native communities in their own areas.

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## **COVID-19 Community Resources**

The COVID-19 crisis has elevated the importance and impact of neighbors helping neighbors. Drawing upon their intimate knowledge of their communities and existing relationships, these groups can move quickly and effectively to link people who need help with those who can provide it. Two new mutual aid groups have come to our attention.

Amidst the COVID-19 health emergency, the Enchanted Circle's many and varied public and private sector organizations have joined forces to form the Enchanted Circle Community Organizations Active in Disaster to foster effective preparedness, response and recovery for the people of the Enchanted Circle. The [EC-COAD website](#) provides a resource guide listing sector partners. If you have an additional need or question, please email [info@eccoad.org](mailto:info@eccoad.org) and a sector leader will be in touch with you. [Volunteers](#) are welcome to help with the emergency and recovery efforts, and/or donate to [The Fund for Taos](#).

[Socorro County Health Council \(SCOPE\)](#) sponsors the Magdalena Wellness Program providing volunteers to call and check in periodically with your family members or loved ones. Call or text 575-517-6824 to get started. Email: [magdalenawellnessprogram@gmail.com](mailto:magdalenawellnessprogram@gmail.com)

More are listed [here](#). Please share information about efforts in your community. Contact [info@nmfirst.org](mailto:info@nmfirst.org)

**For additional current information and resources, visit [SHARE's COVID-19 page](#).**

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# NEW MEXICO FIRST COUNTDOWN



## EARLY VOTING IS NOW AVAILABLE!

### Why I Vote

Amber Morningstar Byars is a New Mexican Choctaw/Chickasaw artist, writer and law student. She tells us why she is voting, in [this powerful video](#) filmed by Ramona Emerson and Kelly Byars from [Reel Indian Pictures](#).

Exercise your right and responsibility to vote. Make a plan.

- **Make sure you are registered to vote.** You can look up your voter registration record and verify that your information is correct using NM's [Voter Information Portal](#). Register in person by **October 31st**.
- **Decide how and when you will vote. Tomorrow is the last day to request an absentee ballot.** Return these it by November 3rd, 7:00 PM. Vote early from October 17th-October 31st. Check with your [local elections office](#) for times and places. Vote on election day: Tuesday, November 3rd. [Locate your polling place](#).
- **Learn about the candidates and issues.** The [League of Women Voters](#) has posted their online Voter Guide, [Vote411](#), with information on all New Mexico elections.
- **Be healthy and safe.** [Find tips](#) on how to cast your vote and protect your health, including accessibility options for voters with handicaps.

**Returning Citizens, Register and Vote.** If you have been convicted of a felony, you can register to vote once you have completed the court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, including any term of parole or probation for the conviction. This

provision includes federal, state and out-of-state convictions. To determine if you qualify to have your voting rights restored following a felony conviction, contact the Department of Corrections, Division of Parole and Probation (505.827.8830).

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## Tip for Civic Engagement

Civic engagement is not a panacea. It's really hard work! Done poorly, it undermines trust and engagement. Done well, it's time consuming and has the potential to not only raise common ground but also raise deeply entrenched differences that are rooted in pain and injustice. It's not for the faint of heart. You might be motivated to use civic engagement strategies to:

- identify positions, interests, and potential solutions related to local or statewide causes and issues;
- strengthen engagement and momentum in collective efforts;
- understand voter behavior or community member actions; or
- strengthen collaboration and problem-solving capacity.

Robust and relationship-based civic engagement doesn't mesh with quick fixes. Make time to engage as many people as possible with diverse perspectives in planning and implementing civic engagement strategies. Keep in mind that one-and-done strategies are rarely durable or impactful. Consider how to combine strategies to achieve goals while being realistic about capacity but don't use capacity challenges as an excuse to circumvent civic engagement.

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## Our Mission. Our Values.

### Our Mission

To be a catalyst for positive change by engaging citizens in policy and enabling action.

### Our Core Values

Meaningfully engaging New Mexicans in public policy; Striving for and respecting consensus; Pursuing and respecting diverse points of views; Ensuring inclusion and transparency; Rising above partisan politics; Changing policy to improve people's lives; Creating an informed citizenry that is powerfully motivated; Reaching out statewide including rural and tribal communities; Partnering with others; Promoting civility and Democracy at its best!

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