

COVID-19 DAY 435 PRESS UPDATE MAY 19, 2021

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*INVESTING FOR TOMORROW, DELIVERING TODAY.*

# PRESS UPDATE OVERVIEW

- Sec. Ryan Stewart (Public Education Dept.): schools update
- Sec. Tracie Collins, M.D. (Dept. of Health): vaccine update
- Sec. David Scrase, M.D. (Human Services Dept.): science and Red, Yellow, Green, Turquoise updates
- Q&A with media partners



# THE LATEST: School cases are decreasing

## Report: Cases This Week (May 11-17)

### CASES REPORTED IN SCHOOLS

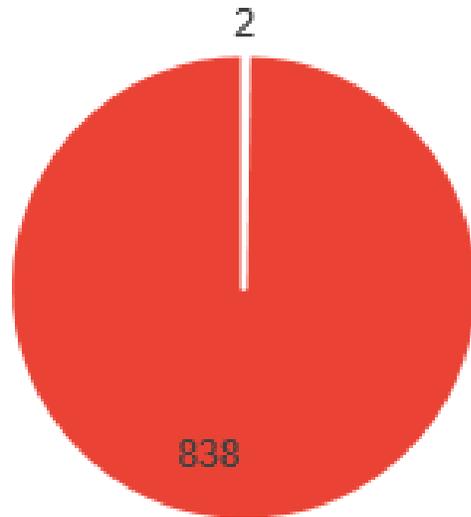
- Current week: 192 cases
- Last week (May 4-10): 327 cases

### MOST CASES INVOLVE STUDENTS

- Students: 158 cases
- Teachers: 11 cases

# WHAT WE LEARNED: Most schools stayed open

## Mandatory School Closures 4 Rapid Responses in 14 Days

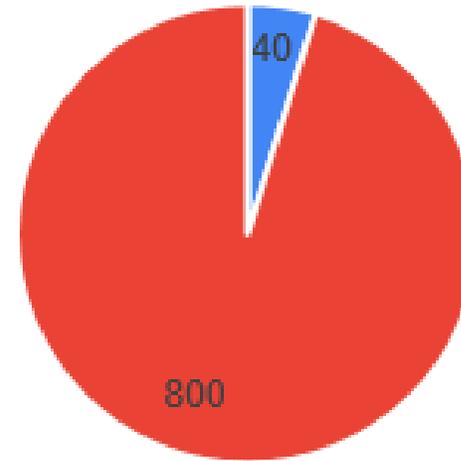


■ Mandatory Closings ■ Remained Open

### Mandatory Closures

- Eldorado High, Albuquerque (April 13)
- Yucca Middle School, Clovis (May 11)

## Voluntary Closures Through May 14



■ Voluntary Closings ■ Remained Open

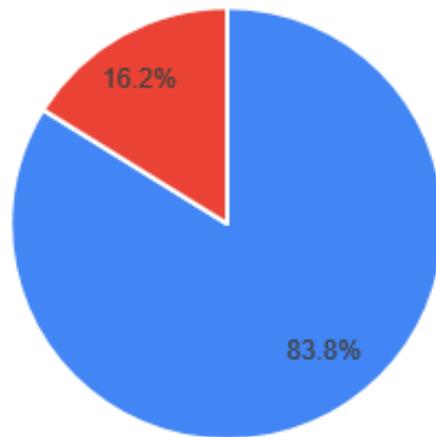
### Today

Only 34 schools on the Rapid Response watchlist, down by half from two weeks ago

# WHAT WE LEARNED: Teachers are safe

- School staff were prioritized for the vaccine in March
- More than **68,000** registered as educators
  - includes early childhood and higher education
- To date, **57,008** pre-K through college staff are fully vaccinated

Educator Vaccination Status



■ Educators Fully Vaccinated ■ Less than fully vaccinated

**Surveillance testing:**  
Teacher positivity rate  
has averaged **0.16%**  
since February 28.

# WHAT'S NEXT: Students eligible for vaccines

- APRIL 5: Children ages 16 and older became eligible
- MAY 13: Children ages 12 and older became eligible



# WHAT'S NEXT: Students eligible for vaccines

## May 3-8: Student Vaccination Week

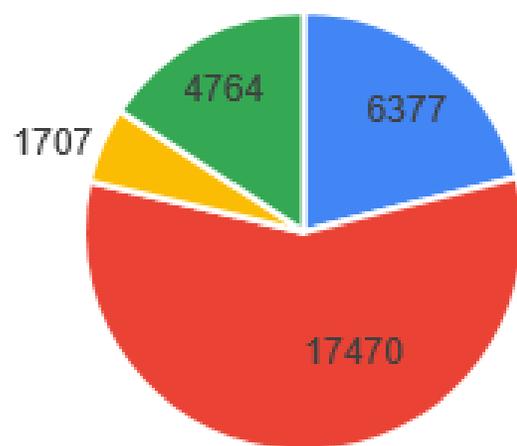
- registrants ages 16-18
- 5,511 students vaccinated
- Ages 16-18 REGISTERED: 32,017
- Ages 12-15 REGISTERED: 23,890

New voluntary student surveillance testing program initiated to ensure continued school safety



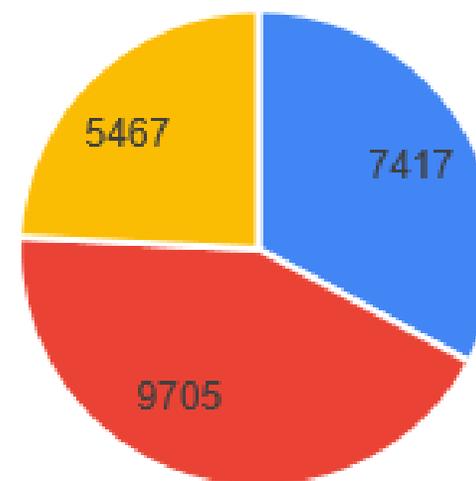
# STUDENT VACCINATION STATUS

16- 18-Year-Olds: Vaccination Status  
of 32,017 registered



- partially vaccinated
- fully vaccinated
- scheduled for initial
- scheduled for booster

12- 15-Year-Olds: Vaccination Status  
of 23,890 registered

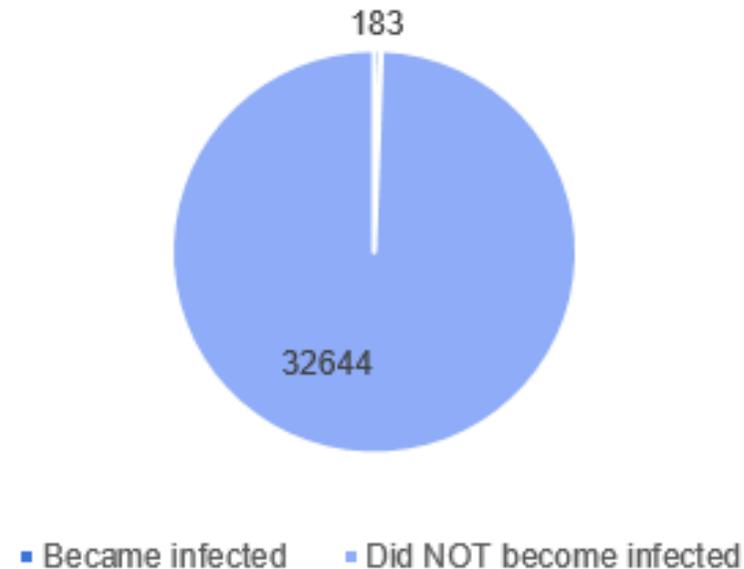


- partially vaccinated
- scheduled for initial
- scheduled for booster

# WHAT WE'VE LEARNED: Communities are safe

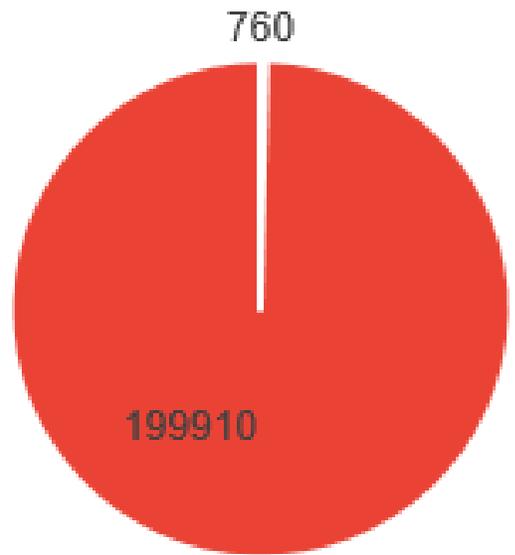
- Schools are NOT driving community spread.
- PED/DOH in partnership with schools requires quarantine for unvaccinated students and staff possibly exposed at school.
- Among close contacts at school, transmission rate was less than 0.5%

Transmission at School:  
Of 32,827 Close Contacts



# WHAT WE'VE LEARNED: Infectious-on-campus cases very low

April: Infectious on Campus  
Of 200,670 students/staff on campus:



■ infectious ■ not-infectious

99.6% of students/staff on campus were NOT infectious

# WHERE WE'VE BEEN: School visits

PED secretary and deputy secretaries visited more than 30 schools in April to meet with school leaders, educators, and students to solicit feedback on how schools are implementing CSPs. Students and teachers were happy to be back!



# COVID-19 Vaccine Update

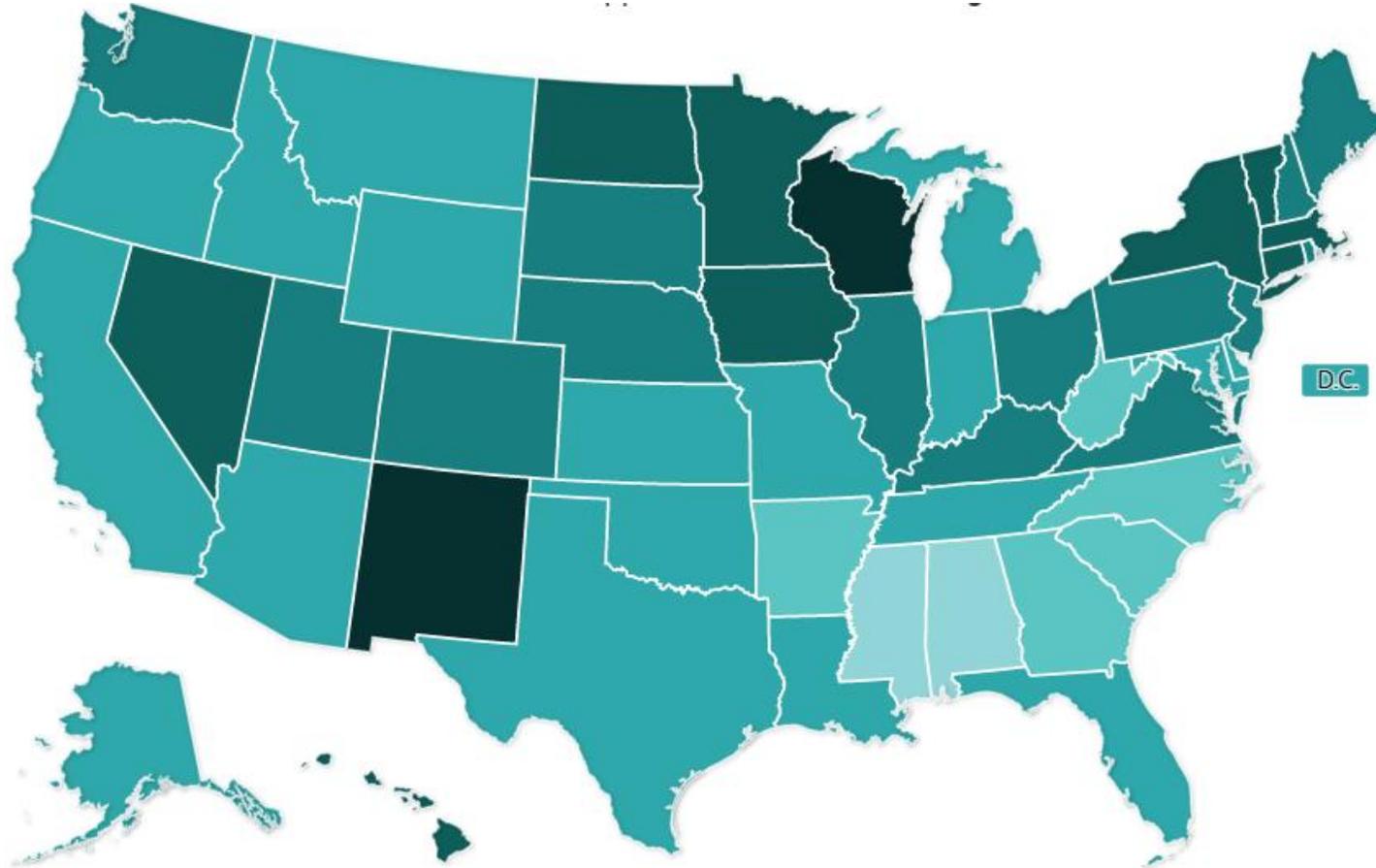
May 19, 2021

Dr. Tracie Collins

Cabinet Secretary, Department of Health



# New Mexico is the most efficient vaccine distributor in the country



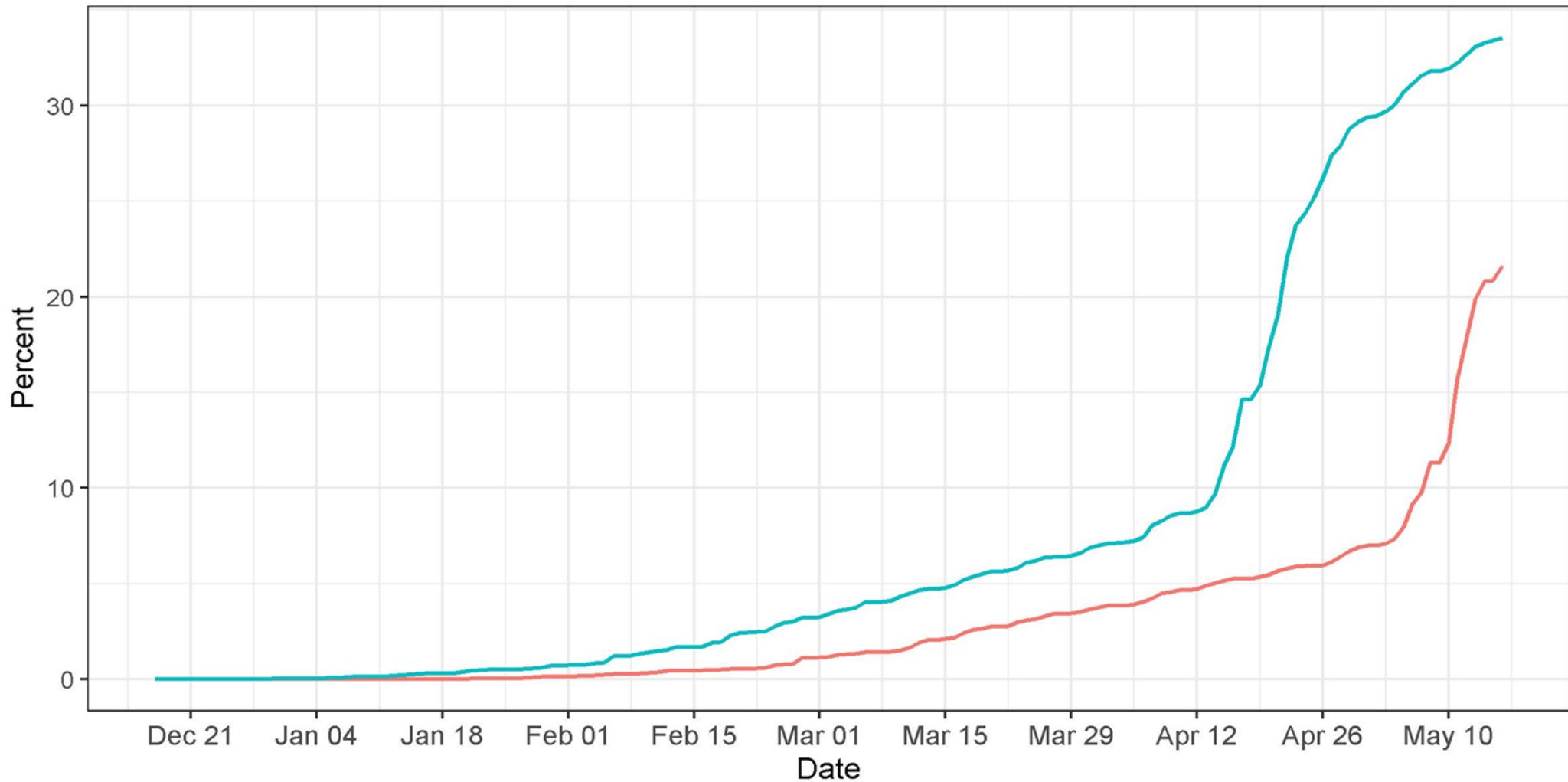
# Progress with vaccinations

- 63.4% of New Mexicans (16+) have received at least a first shot
- 52.9% of New Mexicans (16+) are fully vaccinated

# On track for 60% by June 30

- When 60% of New Mexicans (16+) have full vaccine-related immunity, we will graduate from the Red-Yellow-Green-Turquoise county color system.
- Native communities are sovereign and may operate according to different guidelines.

## Vaccination Progress - Ages 16 to 17



— Percent Fully Vaccinated — Percent Receiving At Least One Dose

# Primary care providers – a key partner

- Primary care providers in a unique position to hold intimate, meaningful conversations with patients about vaccination.
- **Call your patients, encourage them to get vaccinated, and offer vaccinations to patients who are visiting your facility for other reasons.**

# Primary care providers can enroll as COVID-19 vaccine providers

- <https://cv.nmhealth.org/providers/vaccines/vaccine-provider-portal/>



# On-site vaccination events

- Web-based request form is available: [getvaxnm.com](http://getvaxnm.com)
- Businesses, nonprofits, religious organizations, schools, and others can request an on-site vaccination event

# New Mexicans can schedule their own vaccine appointments

- More than 948,000 New Mexicans registered for vaccine.
- VaccineNM.org
- New Mexicans can also self-schedule their boosters.

# Vaccine is free for everyone

- You do not need a Social Security Number or government ID to receive free COVID-19 vaccine, treatment, or services.



# Vaccine and the immigrant community

- The state of New Mexico does NOT share immigration status information with the federal government.
- Vaccine sites are safe.

# Need support getting scheduled?

- 1-855-600-3453 and press 1 (o 3 para español).
- Seniors and those with disabilities can call 1-800-432-2080 for support with registration and scheduling.
- DOH and ALTSD are also calling to schedule seniors (60+), New Mexicans with disabilities, and others who require special accommodations.

# Keeping kids safe means maintaining COVID-safe practices

- Only individuals 12+ are eligible for vaccine
- MIS-C: severe hyperinflammatory syndrome occurring 2-6 weeks after acute COVID infection
  - 60-70% of patients admitted to intensive care; 1-2% die
- New Mexico has had 23 cases
- **To protect our youngest, COVID-safe practices are essential**

# May is Mental Health Month

Sponsored by the New Mexico  
Behavioral Health Collaborative



[doseofwellness.com](http://doseofwellness.com)

Need to talk? 1-855-NMCRISIS (662-7474)

# New Mexico: standing together, protecting one another



# INTERIM PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FULLY VACCINATED PEOPLE CDC

- Fully vaccinated people* no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance, except where required by federal, state, local, or tribal laws, rules, and regulations, including business and workplace guidance.
- Fully vaccinated people* who are residents or employees of correctional or detention facilities or homeless shelters should be tested for COVID-19 following known exposure.
- For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

  - Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
  - Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations.
- CDC recommends *schools* continue mask wearing and social distancing for remainder of 2021 school year as most students are not fully vaccinated.
- People who are not fully vaccinated* encouraged to wear a mask indoors and in certain outdoor settings.

	Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
		<b>Outdoor</b>	
Safest		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		<b>Indoor</b>	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

# SARS-COV-2 VARIANTS IN NEW MEXICO

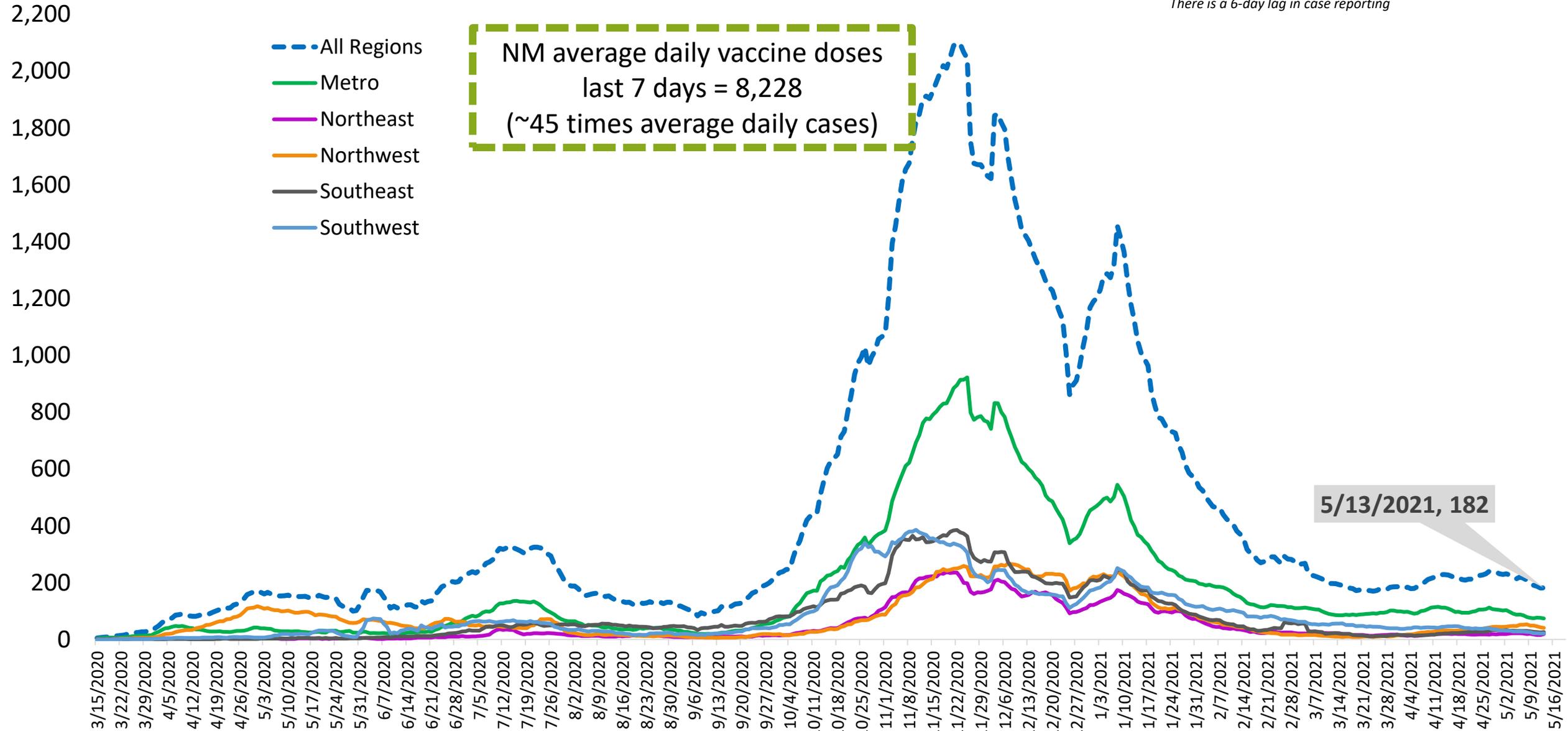
- First B.1.617 Indian variant from NM patient identified last week; variant contains mutation seen in CA variants associated with resistance to Bamlanivimab.
- B.1.1.7 is predominant strain in NM, which is estimated to be 1.5x- 2x more transmissible than earlier virus strains.
- CA variant proportions plummeted over past two months.
- Modest increases in Brazilian and NY variants over past month.
- These patterns reflect national trends shown in CDC data.

COVID-19 Variants in NM, April 3 to May 1, 2021* (n = 427)		
Lineage	Cumulative Total	Percent
B.1.1.7 (U.K.) (VOC)	275	64.4%
B.1.427/ B.1.429 (CA) (VOC)	27	6.3%
B.1.525/B.1.526 (NY) (VOI)	24	5.6%
P.1 (Brazil) (VOC)	9	2.1%
B.1.2 (U.S.)	6	1.4%
B.1.351 (S. Africa) (VOC)	1	0.2%
B.1.617 (India) (VOI)	1	0.2%
P.2 (Brazil) (VOI)	0	0.0%
<i>Other Lineages</i>	84	19.9%

*VOI: Variant of Interest; VOC: Variant of Concern*

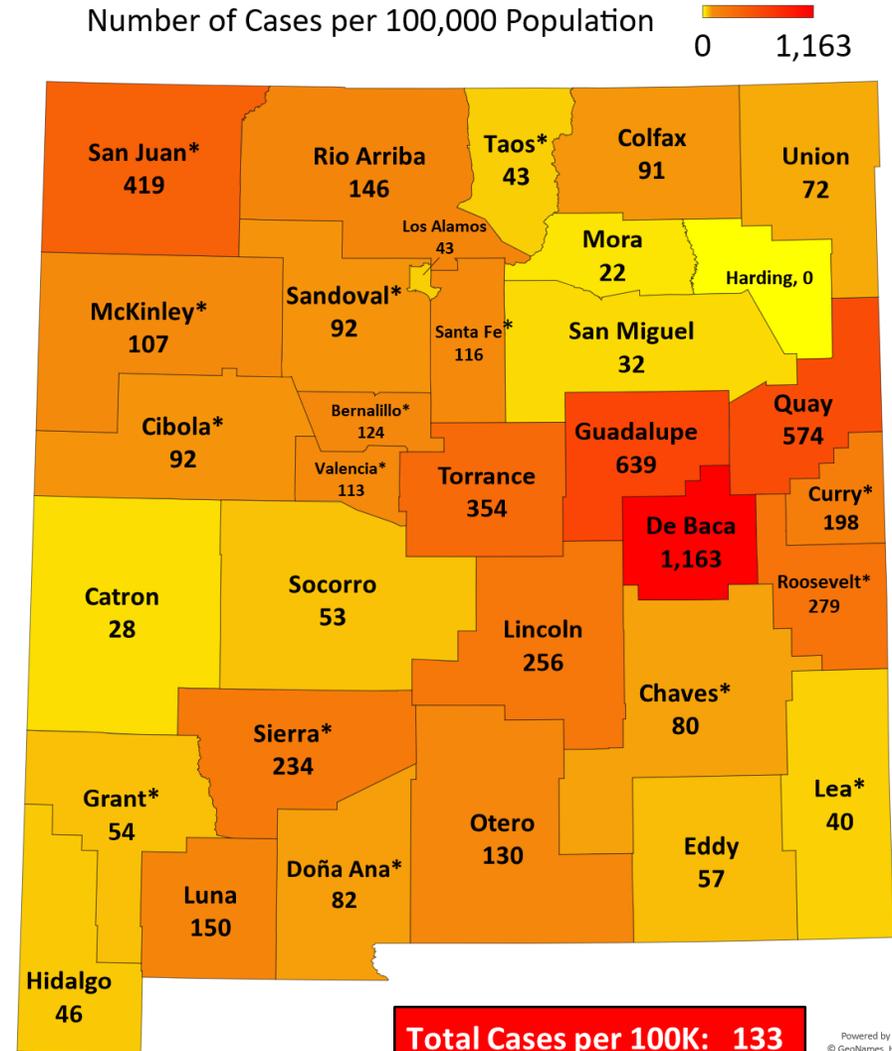
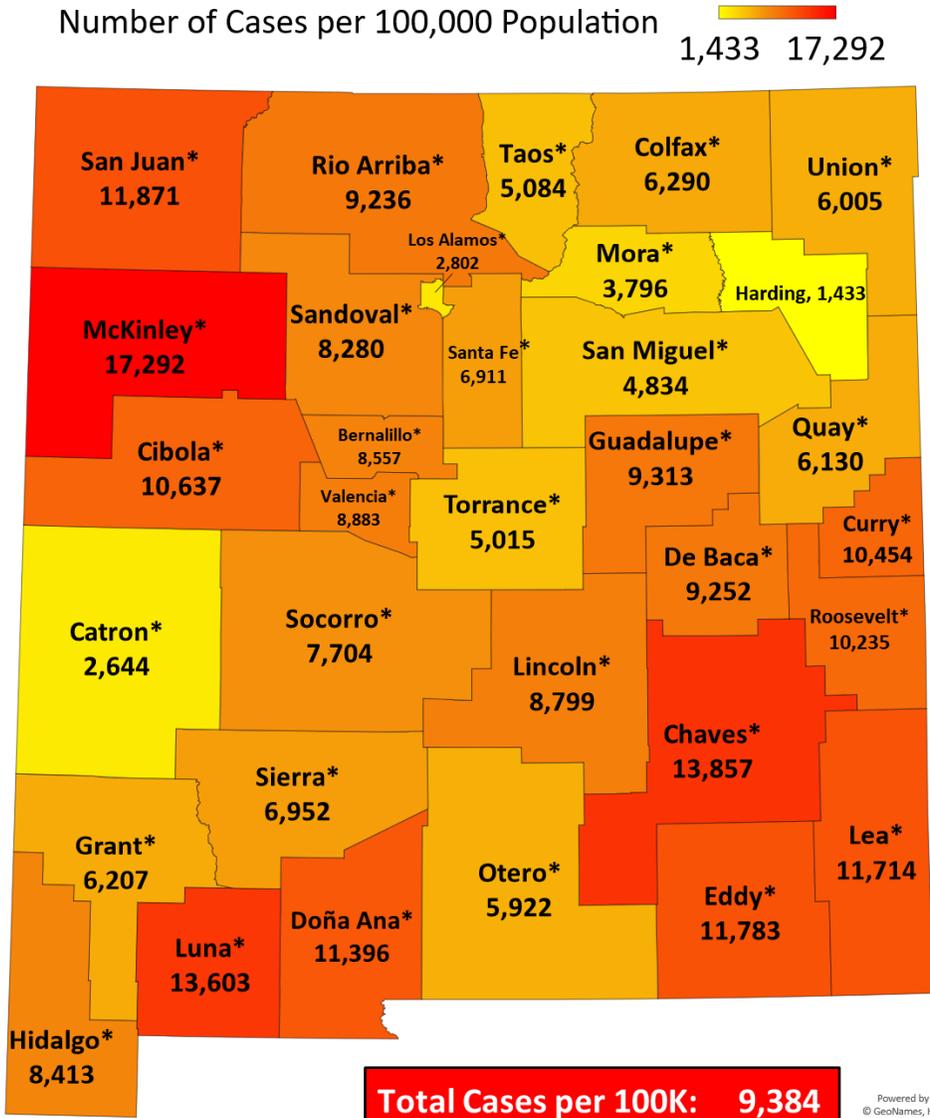
# 7-Day Average of Daily COVID-19 Positive Cases by Date of Specimen Collection, NMDOH Regions 5/19/2021

Source: New Mexico Department of Health  
There is a 6-day lag in case reporting



# COVID-19 Prevalence Rate (5/18/2021)

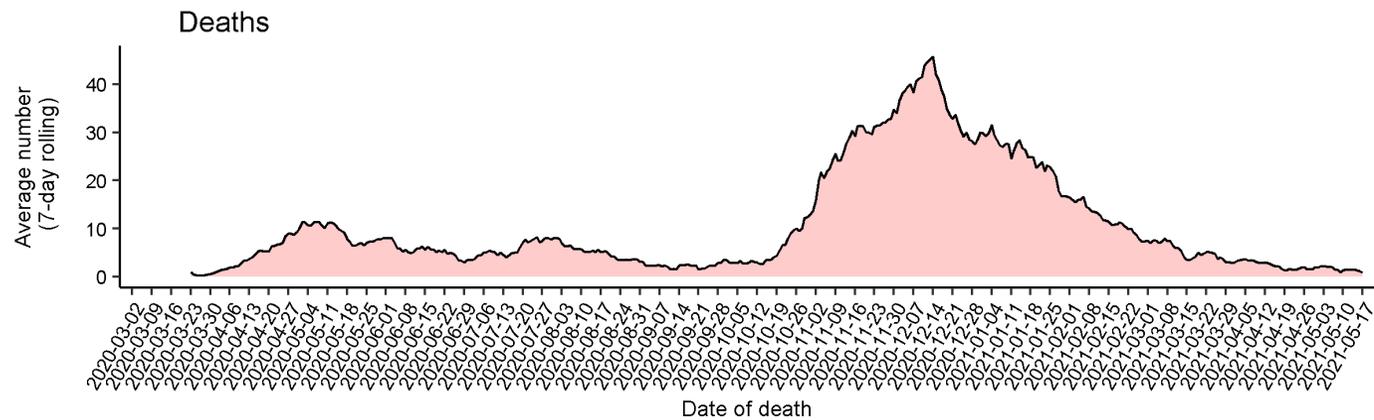
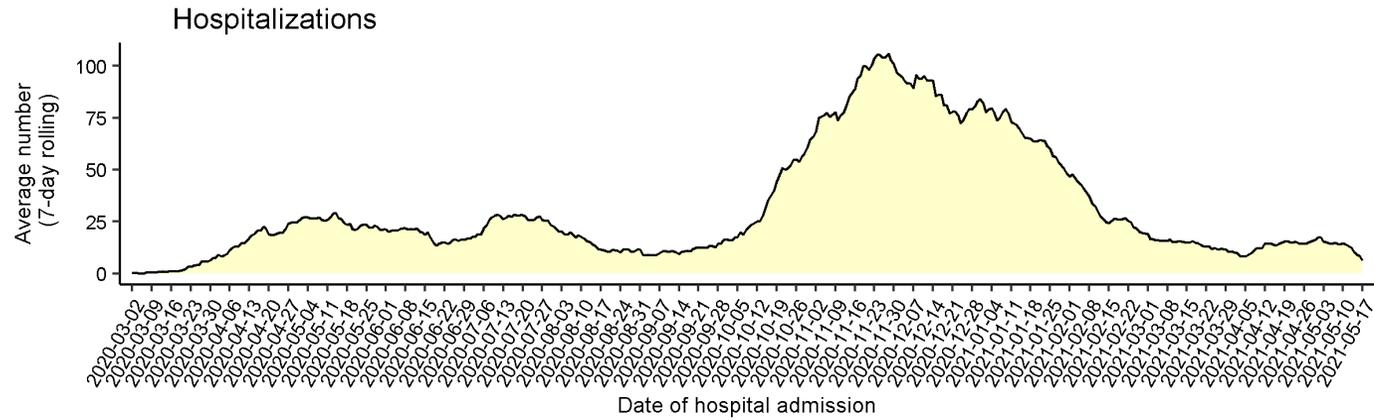
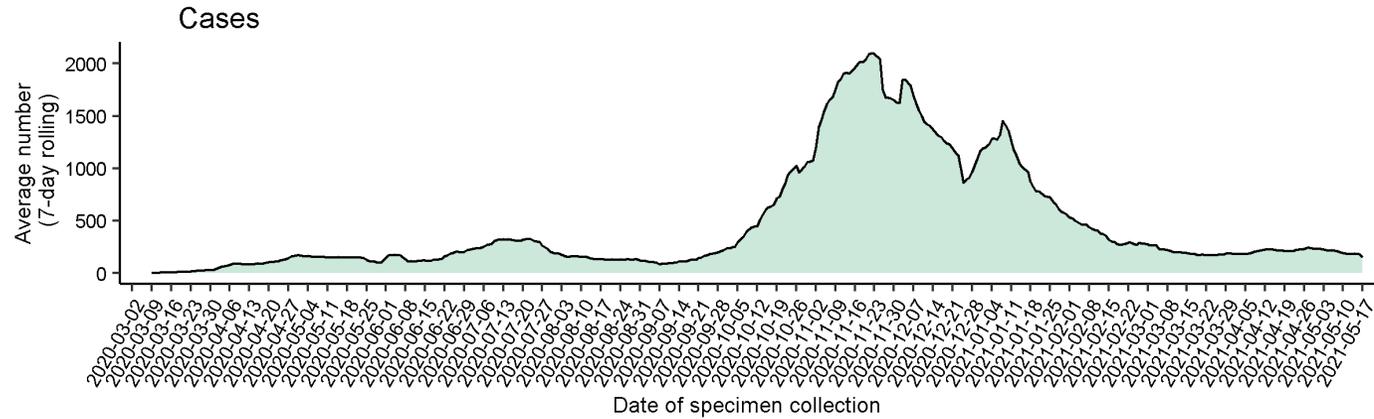
# 14-Day Total COVID-19 Prevalence Rate <sup>32</sup> (5/5 to 5/18)



Source: New Mexico Department of Health. Population estimates obtained from US Census American Factfinder. Retrieved from <https://ibis.health.state.nm.us/query/result/pop/PopCnty/Count.html>, March 29, 2020. \* denotes death occurred in county. Excludes cases in federal and state detention facilities.

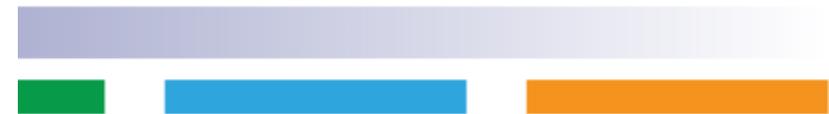
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# Average number (7-day rolling average) of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths over time



Note: Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths may not yet be reported in 7 or more days.

As of 5/17/21



# PUBLIC HEALTH GATING CRITERIA FOR REOPENING

Criterion	Measure	Gating Target	Current Status
Spread of COVID-19	Rate of COVID-19 Transmission (10-day Rolling Average)	1.05 or less	0.90 on 5/17/21
	NM daily cases (7-day rolling average)	210 or less	182 on 5/13/21
Testing Capacity: general and targeted populations*	Number of tests per day (7-day rolling average)	5,000 / day	7,783 on 5/17/21
	Test Positivity Rate (7-day rolling average)	7.5% or less	3.3% on 5/17/21
Case Investigation and Isolation, Contact Tracing and Quarantine	Time from positive test result to: -case investigation and isolation	24 hrs	Week ending 5/14 = 19
	-contact tracing for quarantine	36 hrs	Week ending 5/14 = 28
Statewide Health Care System Capacity	Availability of scarce resources in 7 Hub Hospitals: -Adult ICU beds occupied	439 or less	249 on 5/18/21

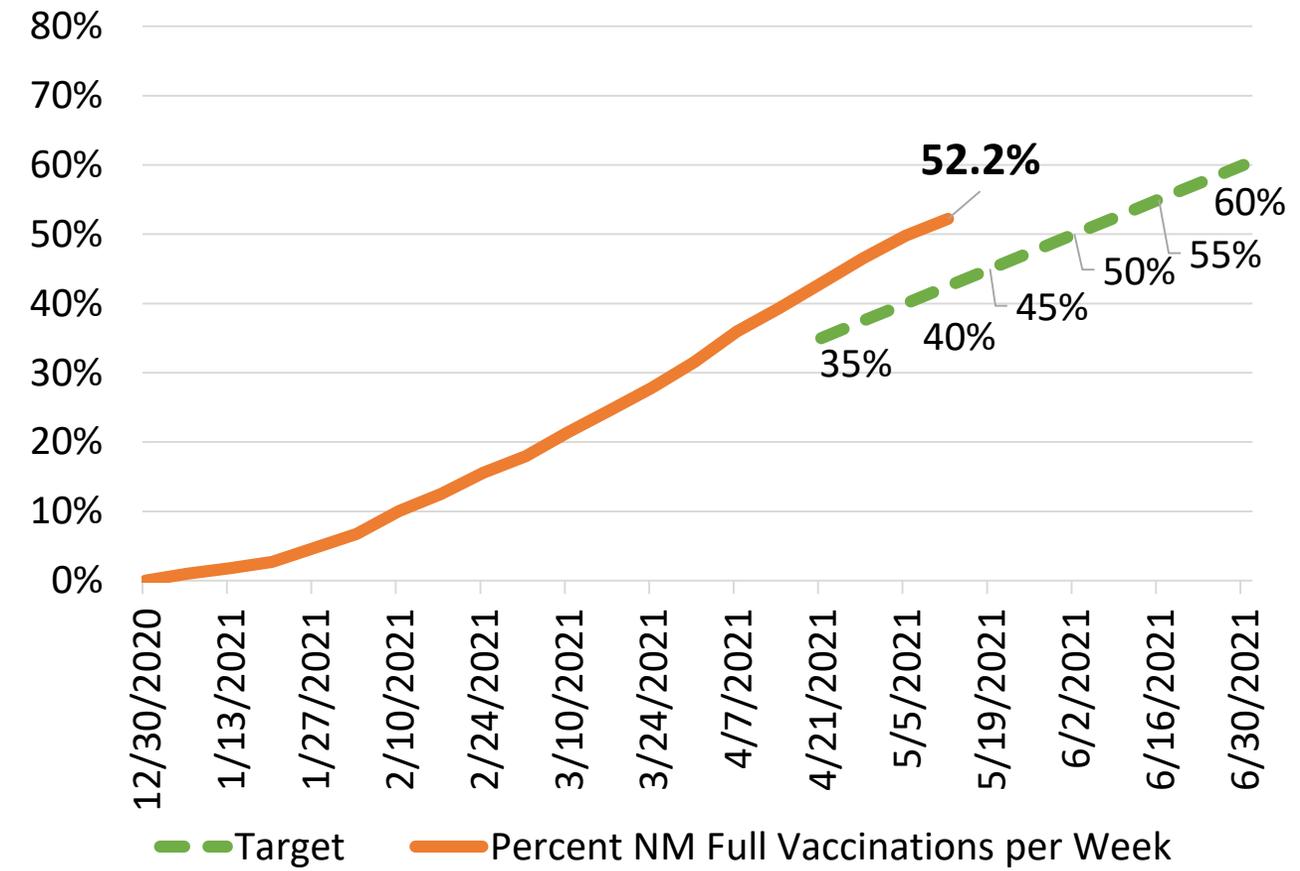
Gating criteria updated **weekly** on Tuesdays.

**Native American communities are sovereign and may operate according to different guidelines.**

# CONQUERING COVID: NEW FULL VACCINATION RATE METRIC

- Based on *completed* vaccinations (one J&J or two Pfizer or Moderna).
- Numerator: cumulative number final dose State Vaccines + Federal Vaccines administered to county residents ≥16 years old.\*
- Denominator: county population eligible for vaccine = ≥16 years old.\*
- If a county is at or above every-two-week target, then it “meets” the metric.
- Target increases by 5% every 2 weeks = 42,015 New Mexicans fully vaccinated per week.

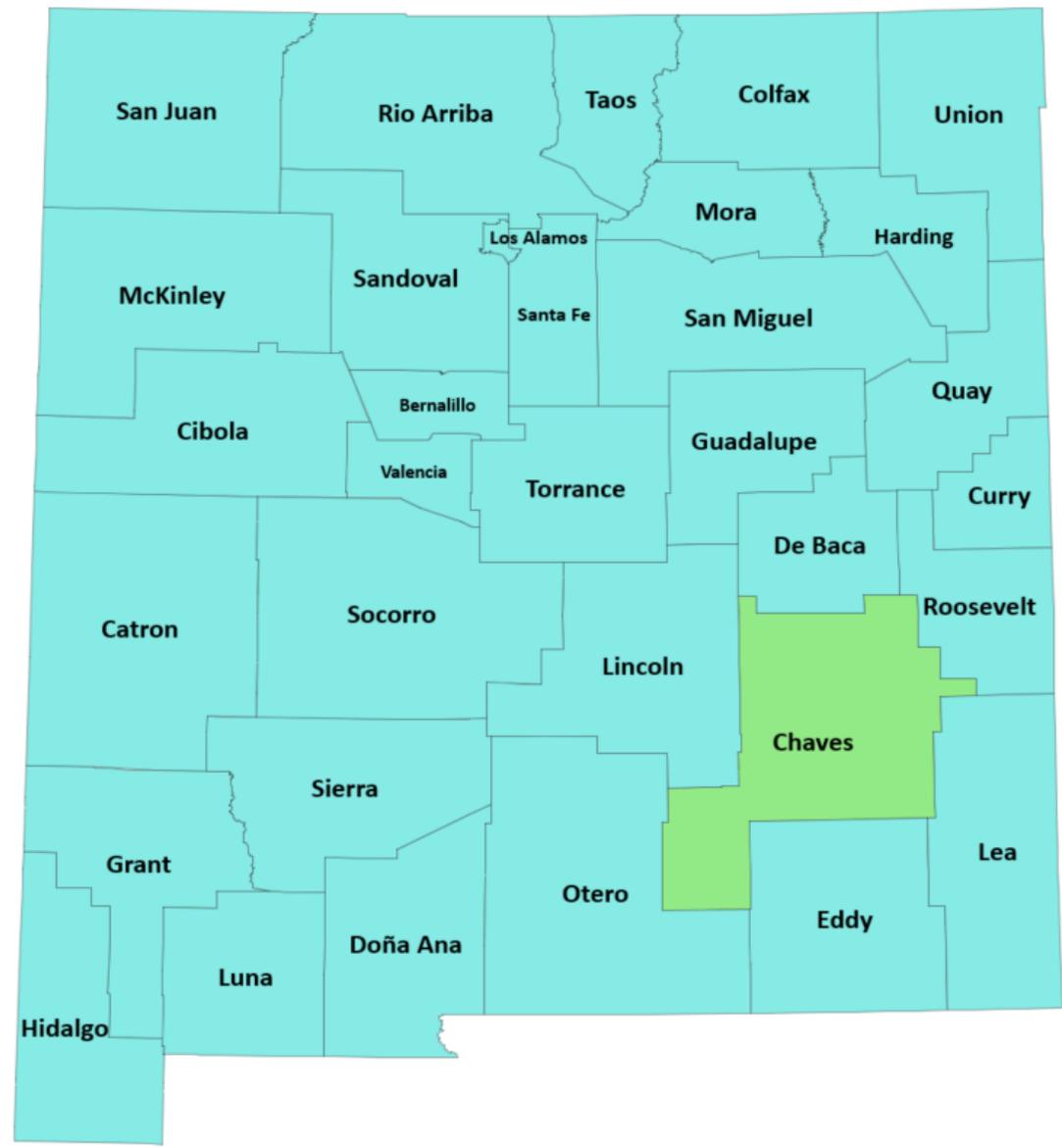
### NM Full COVID-19 Vaccination Rate vs Target (eligible population age ≥ 16)



**\*Will NOT change with new eligible populations.**

# NM COVID-19 COUNTY UPDATE

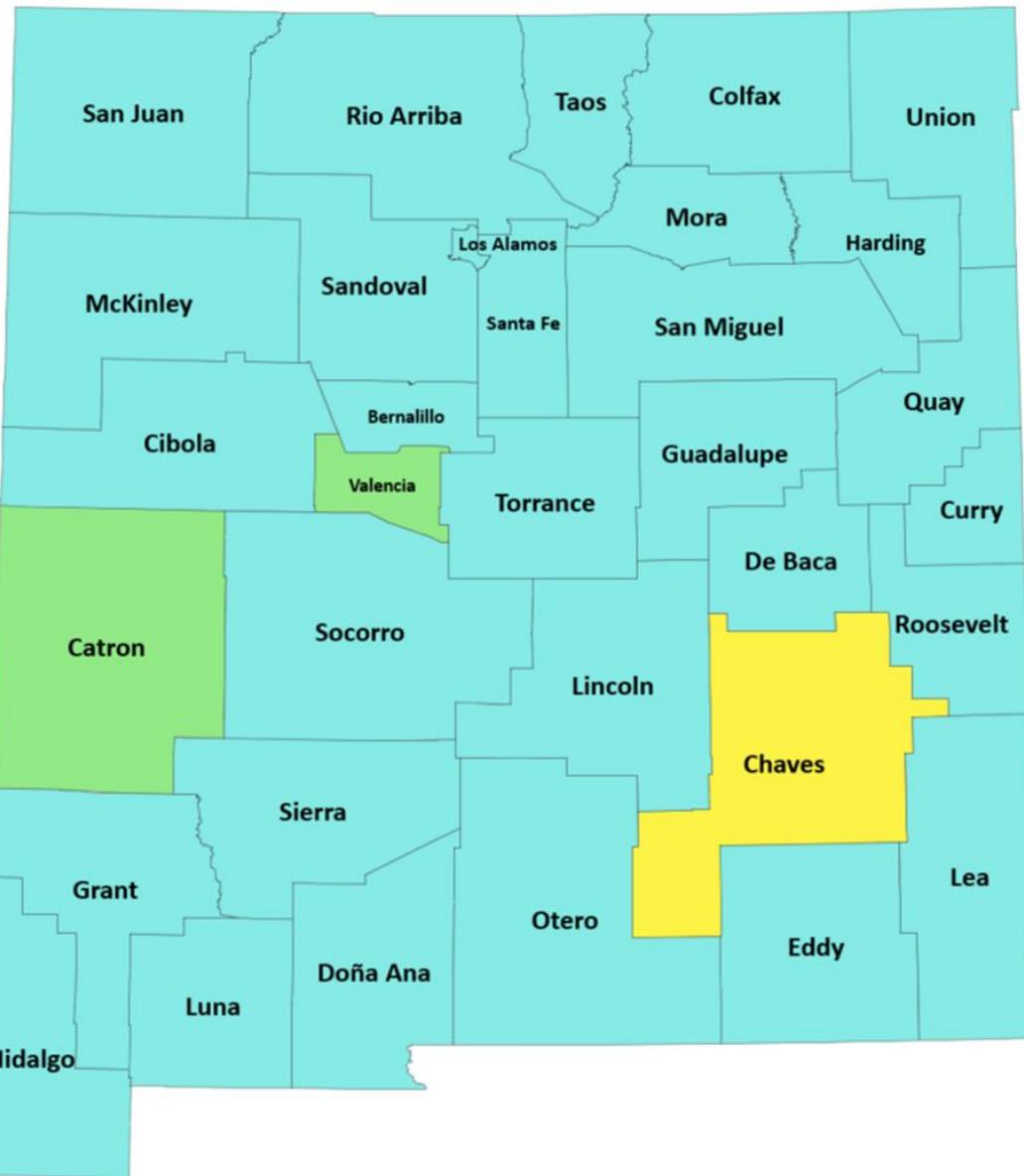
- Update includes “pause” for Turquoise counties.
- Completed vaccination rate moved up from >40% to >45%.
- Only 3 counties were evaluated for this update, 31 will be evaluated for June 2<sup>nd</sup> report.
- **Vaccination is strongest tool available to counties for maintaining positive status.**



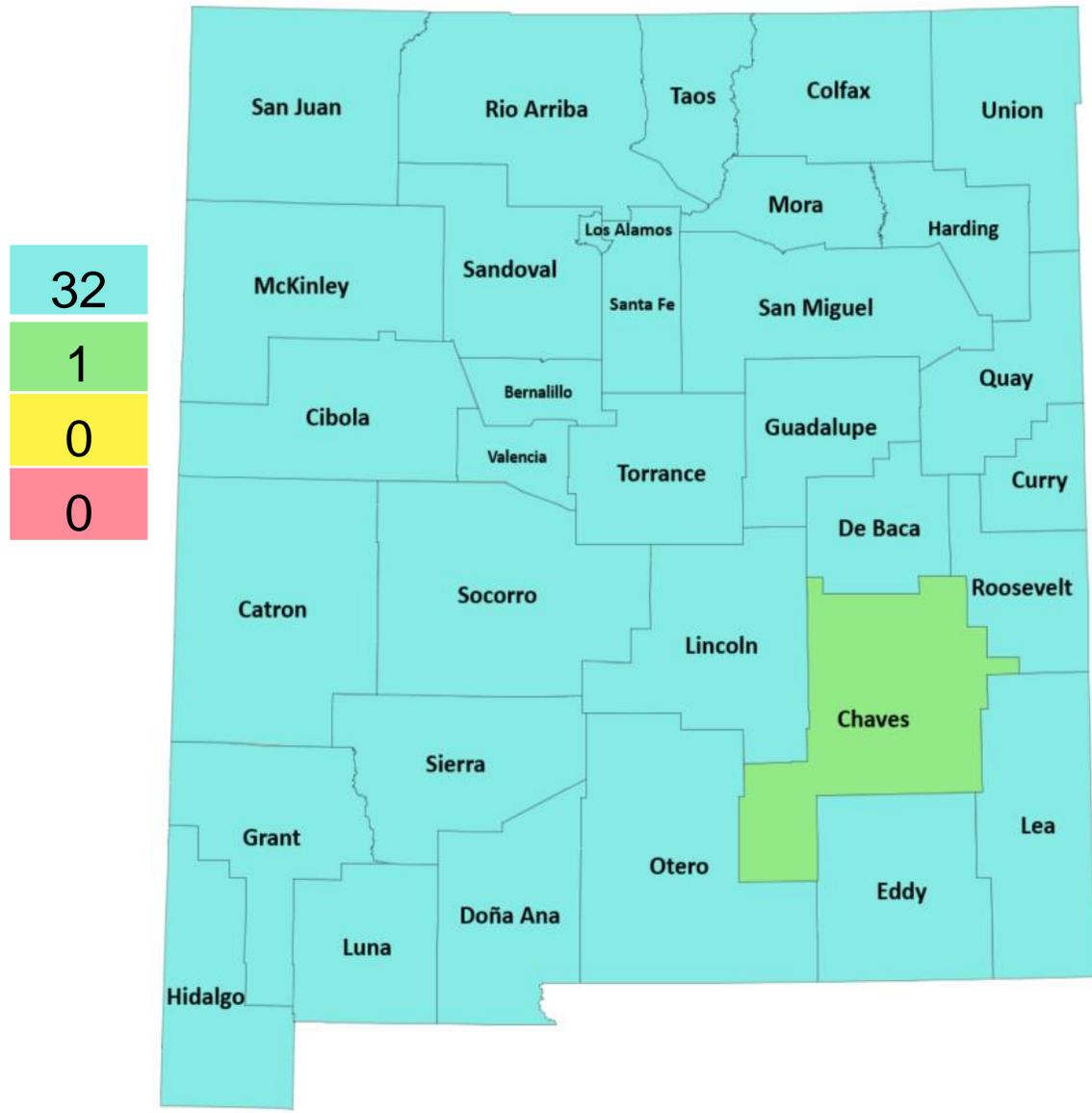
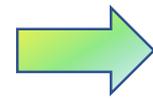
Data for both cases and tests include 14 complete days of data during period and exclude cases among inmates in state and federal corrections and detention centers. Tests: Lab record created in previous 14 days, specimen collection in previous 14 days from lab record created. Cases: Case investigation created within previous 14 days, specimen collection within 14 days of case creation. Due to instability in 14-day rates experienced by small counties, DOH uses 6250 population for counties with less than 5000 population. Those counties are: Catron, De Baca, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Mora, and Union. County vaccination rates based on completed vaccinations reported by providers to State Immunization Information System or by Federal Agencies through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**COVID-19 Average Daily Case Rates, Test Positivity, and Vaccination Rates by County 4/20, – 5/3, 2021**

**COVID-19 Average Daily Case Rates, Test Positivity, and Vaccination Rates by County, 5/4, – 5/17, 2021**

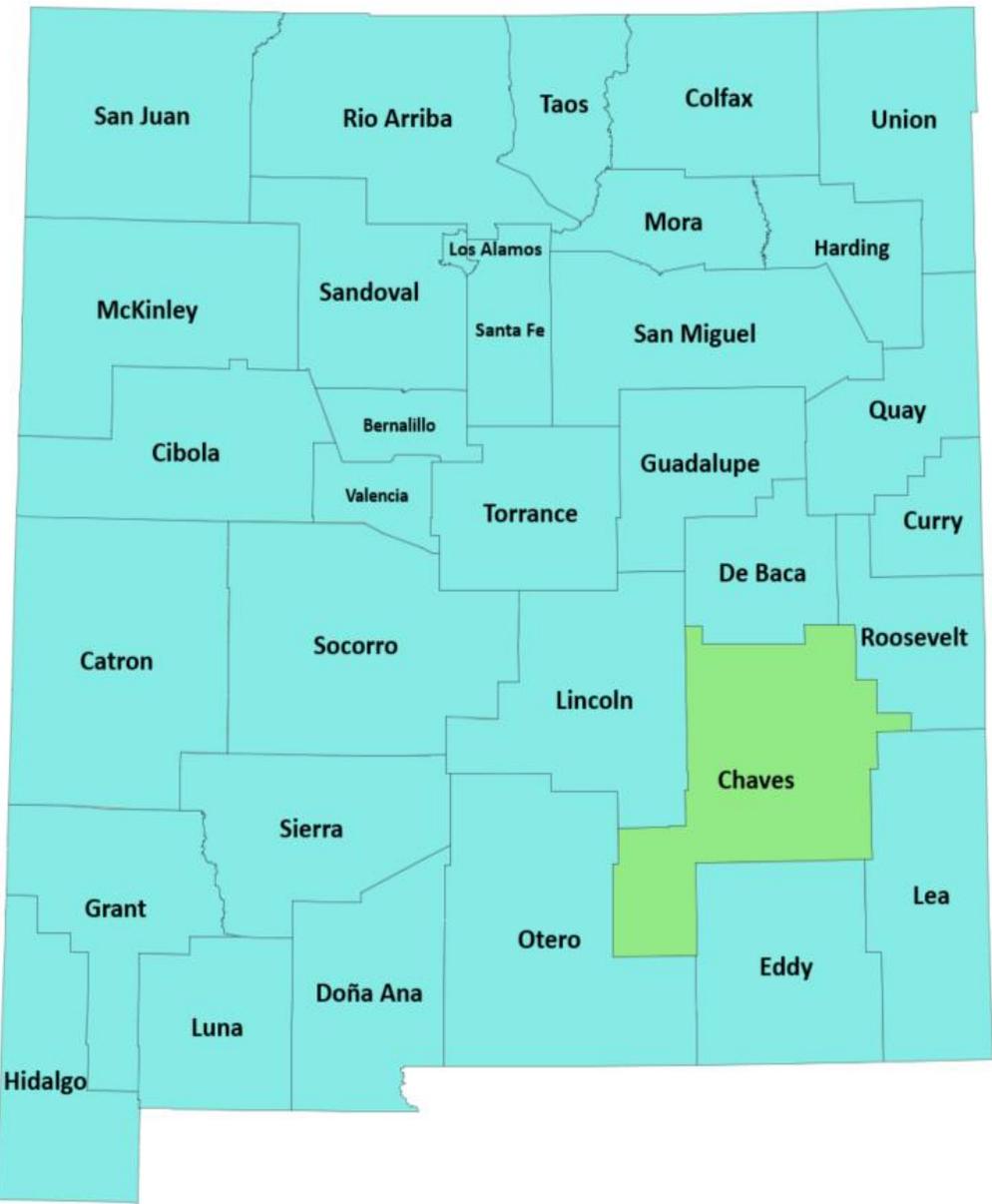


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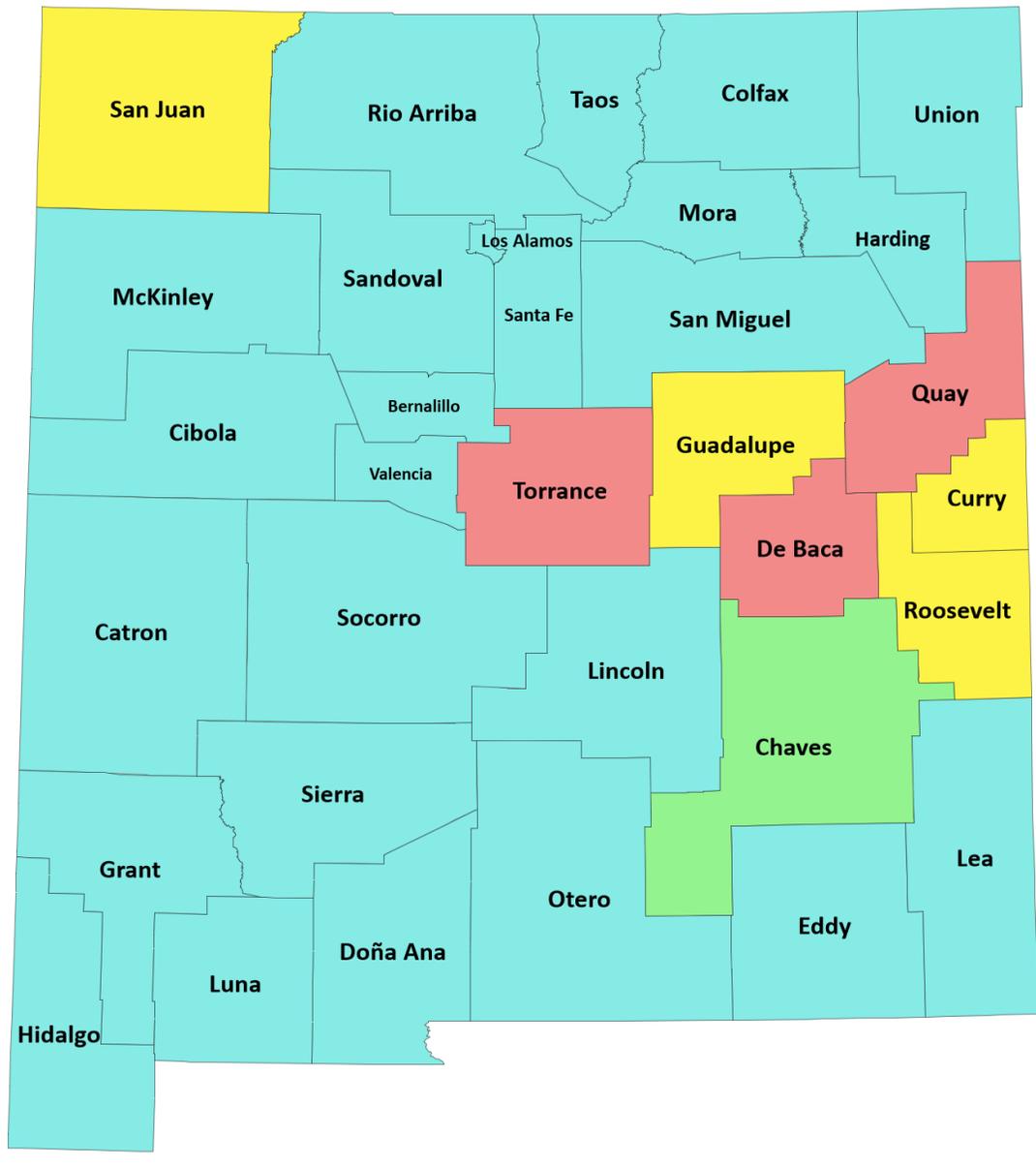
32
1
0
0

# COVID-19 Average Daily Case Rates, Test Positivity, and Vaccination Rates by County, 5/4, – 5/17, 2021



32	→	25
1		1
0		4
0		3

# County Status with Turquoise “4 Week Stability” Removed



# WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT - THE VIRUS IS CHANGING!

39

- **Get registered. Get vaccinated.**
- New COVID variants are spreading more rapidly and may resist treatments.
- Get tested if you think you have COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who is positive.
- If you have COVID-19, learn if you're eligible for monoclonal antibody treatment.
- We ALL need to stay committed to fighting the virus for several more months.

## **CASE COUNTS REMAIN TOO HIGH.**

## **WE ALL STILL MUST FIGHT THE VIRUS.**

- Wash hands, clean surfaces, cough into tissue/elbow.
- Unvaccinated people need to wear face coverings in public.
- Maintain social distancing (minimum 6 feet).
- Get needed preventive healthcare, including dental care.



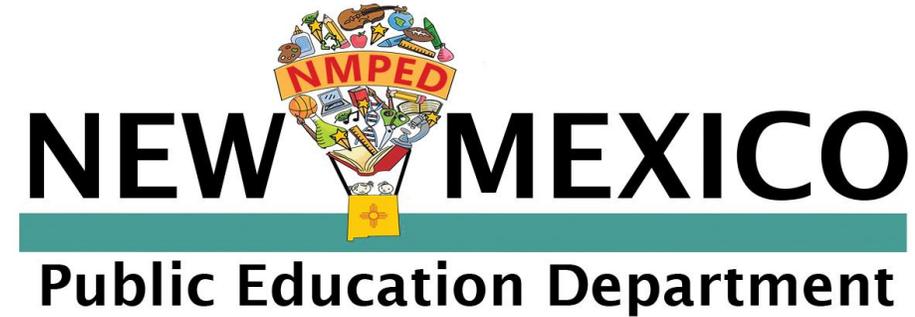
**NMConnect**  
Call, Text,  
& Access  
Mental Health  
Resources

GET IT ON  
**Google Play**

Download on the  
**App Store**

**Crisis And Access Line**  
Call for support and resources  
**1-855-NMCRISIS (662-7474)**  
**Toll Free 24/7/365**

*Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.*



# QUESTIONS

*INVESTING FOR TOMORROW, DELIVERING TODAY.*