COVID-19 Day 540 Press Update

September 1, 2021

DOH Acting Secretary David R. Scrase, MD
DOH Deputy Secretary, Laura C. Parajón, MD, MPH
DOH State Epidemiologist Christine Ross, MD, MPH
• 77.6% of New Mexicans (18+) have received at least a first dose

• 67.7% of New Mexicans (18+) are fully vaccinated

• Coming soon: We are working on dashboard updates to reflect additional doses

Source: New Mexico COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard 09/01/21
New Mexico is vaccinating our most vulnerable counties!

SVI=Group of 15 indicators including poverty, transportation, and crowded housing

Data sources: NMSIIS and Tiberius; vaccination data as of 8/19/2021. County population denominators are for those 18 years and older.
How are we doing for kids?
Vaccinations among young people

- **59.8%** of New Mexicans (12-17) have received at least a first shot
- **47.4%** of New Mexicans (12-17) are fully vaccinated

### Table: Vaccination Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Number of Individuals Fully Vaccinated 8/31/21</th>
<th>Percent of Population Fully Vaccinated 8/31/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-15 years</td>
<td>111,516</td>
<td>45,394</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17 years</td>
<td>55,318</td>
<td>26,810</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24 years</td>
<td>196,553</td>
<td>87,300</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-39 years</td>
<td>420,690</td>
<td>216,131</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-64 years</td>
<td>629,370</td>
<td>422,122</td>
<td>67.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ years</td>
<td>378,676</td>
<td>290,948</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [New Mexico COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](https://nmhealth.org) 09/01/21
Source: Data are drawn from the NM State Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) and include only residents of NM.

**NM opened Phase 2 vaccine distribution, allowing all people aged 16+ to get vaccinated**
Source: Data are drawn from the NM State Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) and include only residents of NM.

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Cumulative Percent of 12- to 15-Year-Olds Receiving First Dose

Source: Data are drawn from the NM State Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) and include only residents of NM.

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Common Concerns and Questions about COVID-19 Vaccine for Children
COVID-19 vaccines are safe for children

• FDA approved the Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year-olds on 05/10/21

• Pfizer vaccine was studied in more than 2,200 children ages 12-15

• Clinical trial data show vaccine to be safe and effective

• Approval took longer because there are more safety precautions taken for children
COVID-19 vaccines do not alter children’s DNA

- None of the COVID-19 vaccines alter or interact with DNA
- Vaccines work by delivering instructions to our cells to start building protection against the virus
COVID-19 vaccines do not affect children’s future fertility

• There is no evidence that vaccines affect fertility in children or adults

• In a recent in vitro fertilization (a type of fertility treatment) study, researchers compared pregnancy success rates among three groups of women:

  • Antibodies from having been vaccinated against COVID-19
  • Antibodies from having a recent infection with the virus that causes COVID-19
  • No antibodies from either having a recent infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 or from having been vaccinated against COVID-19

• The study found no differences in pregnancy success rates among the three groups

My child already had COVID-19. Do they need to get the vaccine?

YES

• Experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting COVID-19 after infection
• It is possible to get infected with COVID-19 again even after recovering
• You can get vaccinated 10 days after a COVID-19 infection
“Should I be worried about myocarditis or pericarditis in my child after a vaccine?”

- Myocarditis is inflammation of heart muscle
- Pericarditis is inflammation of lining of the heart
- Extremely rare side effect
- Leading doctors, nurses, experts from ACIP strongly agree that vaccine is safe for children

“Should I be worried about side effects of the vaccine for my child?”

- Some people experience no side effects after vaccine
- Common side effects last 1-2 days after vaccine

**On the arm where you got the shot:**
- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

**Throughout the rest of your body:**
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

“What should I do for my child if they experience side effects?”

Talk to your provider about taking over the counter medicine like ibuprofen, acetaminophen, or antihistamines for any pain of discomfort.

To reduce pain and discomfort where you got the shot:

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area.
- Use or exercise your arm.

To reduce discomfort from fever:

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Dress lightly.
“Can my child get a COVID vaccine while getting other childhood vaccines?”

YES!!

• Your child can get the COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines during the SAME visit

• New data shows that our bodies develop additional protection after getting vaccinated

• Possible side effects are the same when given alone or together
Fewer childhood vaccines have been given during the COVID-19 pandemic*

To avoid outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases and keep children protected, **vaccinations and well-child visits are essential**

*Compared with January-April, 2019
“What is the difference between additional doses and booster doses?”

**Additional Dose**

**Purpose:** Additional shot to help build an effective immune response against severe infection and death

**Who Qualifies?**
People who are immunocompromised and less likely to mount an effective response to vaccine

**When can I get shot?**
At least 28 days after second shot

**Booster Dose**

**Purpose:** To “boost” immunity from waning antibodies from vaccine

**Who Qualifies?**
No one yet

**When Can I get the Shot?**
Still waiting for final data and recommendations from CDC later this month
NM COVID-19 Cases
New Mexico COVID-19 Cases by Date of Specimen Collection
September 1, 2021

Positive samples collected during this time may not yet be reported.
LANL Projection

• LANL Modeling 8/31/2021 projection for early September:
  • 700-1500 cases per day
  • 3-8 deaths per day
• Increases in NM daily cases should peak soon with continued mitigation strategies (vaccines, masks) – perhaps in the next week?
Comparison of two New Mexico regions: NW and SE

Northwest Region Case Count by Collection Date with 7 Day Moving Average
September 1, 2021

66.3% 18+ fully vaccinated

Southeast Region Case Count by Collection Date with 7 Day Moving Average
September 1, 2021

45.6% 18+ fully vaccinated
Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths by vaccination status over prior 4-week period

Percent of Cases Hospitalizations and Deaths by Vaccine Status
02 August, 2021 - 30 August, 2021

Cases:
- Unvaccinated: 3579 (17.7%)
- Vaccinated: 16654 (82.3%)

Hospitalizations:
- Unvaccinated: 99 (10.4%)
- Vaccinated: 852 (89.6%)

Deaths:
- Unvaccinated: 5 (6.7%)
- Vaccinated: 70 (93.3%)

Unvaccinated
Vaccinated
Infections among unvaccinated individuals are driving the current surge

Source: New Mexico COVID-19 Vaccination Report 08/31/21

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Case (diagnosed infection) rates among the 5-17 and 18-34 year-olds are higher than other age groups.
Cases among school-age children are increasing and are making up a growing percentage of our total cases.

High test percent positivity, need to increase testing in school-age children

### Cumulative testing rates per 1,000 population and test positivity by age group

Tests include PCR and antigen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group (years)</th>
<th>Total Number of Cases</th>
<th>Cumulative tests per 1,000 population</th>
<th>Cumulative test positivity (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>1327</td>
<td>633.7</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>5042</td>
<td>529.3</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>12500</td>
<td>608.8</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>10422</td>
<td>744.2</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>6679</td>
<td>1093.9</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18+</td>
<td>195994</td>
<td>1891.5</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Continued vigilance with prevention measures in schools is critical

- Unvaccinated teacher who continued teaching 2 days after symptoms
- 12 of 24 kids in classroom infected
- Several community cases linked to outbreak
- No hospitalizations or deaths
NM COVID-19
Hospitalizations and Deaths
We are not seeing a rise in hospitalizations in NM children
ICU Beds

Total beds available: 30

Available COVID ICU Beds
August 31, 2021

Med/Surgical Beds

Total beds available: 39

Available Med/Surgical Beds (COVID)
August 31, 2021
As expected, we are now beginning to see an increase in COVID-19 deaths.
COVID-19 Treatments
Monoclonal antibody (mAbs) treatments

- Antibodies are naturally made in our bodies to fight infection. mAbs are antibodies developed in a laboratory to help our bodies fight infection.
- Antibodies block the virus when the virus tries to enter a cell.
- Nearly 100 mAbs are FDA-approved to treat health conditions including cancers and autoimmune diseases.
- mAbs are given through intravenous infusion (i.e., through a vein) or injection, length of treatment varies.
There has been a significant increase in inpatient and outpatient mAb treatments, but not enough!

- Remdesivir (moderately ill, given in hospital)
- mAbs (symptoms + >64, obese, OR one risk factor, given as outpatient)
Percent of Fully Vaccinated Individuals (18+)
by NM County, 09/01/21

Total Unvaccinated Persons as of August 27, 2021
Ages 18 and Older

Source: New Mexico COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard 08/31/21

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NM COVID-19 Testing Update
New Mexico Test positivity 7-Day Rolling Average, March 17, 2020-August 31, 2021

Test Positivity Rate

Week


Target: 7.5%

8/31/21: 7.6%
### Number of Individuals with COVID-19 Test Results by Lab, NM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Facility</th>
<th>Test Results, 08/21/2021-08/27/2021</th>
<th>Cumulative Test Results, 03/11/2020-08/29/2021</th>
<th>Percent of Total Test Results, 08/21/2021-08/27/2021</th>
<th>Mean Turn Around Time in Days, 08/21/2021-08/27/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curative</td>
<td>24,680</td>
<td>566,322</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LabCorp</td>
<td>8,530</td>
<td>326,327</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology Consultants</td>
<td>2,123</td>
<td>89,954</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quest</td>
<td>2,949</td>
<td>249,344</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLD</td>
<td>4,948</td>
<td>707,717</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TriCore</td>
<td>12,710</td>
<td>972,032</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>6,464</td>
<td>104,243</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>4.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>26,147</td>
<td>1,080,450</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>88,551</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,139,713</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2.21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Kids and adults: Get tested for COVID-19 if...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>...you have COVID-19 symptoms</strong></th>
<th><strong>...you don’t have symptoms but were in close contact</strong> or are a household member of someone who has tested positive and are in their infectious period, <strong>regardless of vaccination status</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and/or loss of taste or smell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>...you don’t have symptoms but are unvaccinated and live or work in a high-risk congregate setting</strong> such as long-term care facilities, detention centers and correctional facilities</th>
<th><strong>...you are a patient scheduled for surgery or hospital admission, even if you’re fully vaccinated.</strong> Some medical facilities may require testing prior to surgery or admission.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Scheduling a COVID-19 test from your computer or phone is easy!

• NM COVID-19 Test Site Directory: FindaTestNM.org

• Surveillance testing: DOH suggests Vault and Curative

• Symptomatic or close contact testing: local hospitals, public health offices, pharmacies, doctors’ offices, and Curative
  • Over-the-counter rapid tests
Misinformation Moment: Unvaccinated CA nurse, mother of 5, dies of COVID-19 a week after giving birth

• Davy, a mother of five who worked as a registered nurse in California died last week from COVID-19

• Davy was seven months pregnant and had not been vaccinated against COVID-19; Doctors delivered her baby after she was intubated

• Her husband, a middle school teacher, remains in critical condition

• Speaking about her brother-in-law, Davy’s sister said, "He was trying to breathe and said, if anyone is not vaccinated, I suggest you do now."

Get Vaccinated. Stay home and get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

- Get tested if you think you have COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who is positive.
- If you have COVID-19, seek out monoclonal antibody treatment.
- Be especially careful indoors no matter where you live in NM.

CASE COUNTS REMAIN TOO HIGH. WE ALL STILL MUST FIGHT THE VIRUS.

- Wash hands, clean surfaces, cough into tissue/elbow.
- Everyone mask up and maintain social distancing (minimum 6’).
- Get needed preventive healthcare.
- Get vaccinated!