COVID-19 Day 554
Press Update

September 15, 2021

DOH Acting Secretary David R. Scrase, M.D., M.H.S.A.
DOH Deputy Secretary Laura C. Parajón, M.D., M.P.H.
PED Secretary-Designate Kurt Steinhaus, Ed.D., M.S.
• 79.0% of New Mexicans (18+) and 62.5% (12-17) have received at least a first dose

• 69.2% of New Mexicans (18+) and 51.6% (12-17) are fully vaccinated

• Coming soon: We are working on dashboard updates to reflect additional doses
Path out of the Pandemic:
President Biden’s COVID-19 Action Plan

Key points for vaccination
- Paid time off for vaccination and recovery
- Executive order requiring vaccination:
  - Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities
  - Federal employees

https://www.whitehouse.gov/covidplan/
New CDC Guide: 12 COVID-19 Vaccine Strategies For Communities

- Home-Delivered Vaccination
- Workplace Vaccination
- Vaccination Requirements
- Vaccine Ambassadors
- Medical Provider Vaccine Standardization
- Medical Reminders
- Effective Messages Delivered by Trusted Messengers
- Provider Recommendation
- Combating Misinformation
- Motivational Interviewing
- Financial Incentives
- School-Located Vaccination Programs

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccinate-with-confidence/community.html
NMDOH Community Resource Center
(English, Spanish, Vietnamese)

https://getthefacts.vaccinenm.org/chw/

Intro to new vaccine reports located at https://cv.nmhealth.org/vaccine-reports/
% population vaccinated and SVI by county

Data sources: NMSIIS and Tiberius; vaccination data as of 9/12/2021. County population denominators are for those 18 years and older.

Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.
The Lancet’s considerations in boosting COVID-19 vaccine immune responses

- Differentiates 3rd dose and booster recipients
- Risk of introducing boosters too soon or too frequently (e.g., myocarditis)
- Cautions regarding the preliminary nature of existing studies
- Questions whether declining antibody levels = waning immunity
- Available vaccines are safe, effective and save lives

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)02046-8/fulltext

Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.
The Lancet stresses vaccines are effective.

After Delta became the most common variant, fully vaccinated people had reduced risk of...

- Infection: 5x
- Hospitalization: >10x
- Death: >10x

Vaccination offers strong protection against COVID-19.

* June 20-July 17, 2021
† Compared with people not fully vaccinated

bit.ly/MMWR91021
Stay tuned...

• FDA Committee Meeting: Fri, Sept. 17, from 8:30am- 3:45pm ET

• Anticipated CDC ACIP to discuss at meeting on Sept. 29

• NMDOH is actively planning for boosters but waiting for definitive guidance

FDA Committee meeting info https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-september-17-2021-meeting-announcement

CDC ACIP meeting info https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/index.html
Ask your provider for your COVID-19 vaccine

• COVID-19 vaccines, like other vaccines, should be given in provider offices
• Good timing to get both flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine together
• Ask your provider if they currently give COVID-19 vaccines, and, if not, when they will be making vaccines available
• NMDOH is working with medical and pharmacy providers to be ready for potential booster doses

TakeCareNM.org
NM COVID-19 Testing Update
TESTS RESULTED BY WEEK 2021

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1190 S. St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, NM 87505 • Phone: 505-827-2613 • Fax: 505-827-2530 • nmhealth.org
New Mexico Test positivity 7-Day Rolling Average, March 17, 2020-September 13, 2021

Target: 7.5%

09/13/21: 6.5%
New Mexico testing turnaround time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Laboratory</th>
<th>Test Results, 09/04/2021-09/10/2021</th>
<th>Percent of Total Test Results, 09/04/2021-09/10/2021</th>
<th>Median Turn Around Time in Days, 09/04/2021-09/10/2021</th>
<th>Cumulative Test Results, 03/11/2020-09/14/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curative</td>
<td>23,869</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>↑ 2.59</td>
<td>631,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LabCorp</td>
<td>6,357</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>↑ 1.97</td>
<td>338,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology Consultants</td>
<td>1,521</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>↓ 2.30</td>
<td>93,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quest</td>
<td>2,198</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>↑ 2.28</td>
<td>254,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLD</td>
<td>4,224</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>↓ 1.29</td>
<td>717,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Labs</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>↓ 0.12</td>
<td>45,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TriCore</td>
<td>10,035</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>↓ 0.89</td>
<td>994,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>7,300</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>↑ 4.31</td>
<td>121,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21,184</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>↑ 1.28</td>
<td>1,142,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>50,501</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>↑ 2.13</td>
<td>4,340,320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children and adults: Get tested for COVID-19 if...

...you have COVID-19 symptoms;

...you don’t have symptoms but were in close contact to a positive case;

...you don’t have symptoms but live or work in a high-risk congregate setting; or

...you are a patient scheduled for surgery or hospital admission

Regardless of vaccination status!

COVID-19 TESTING IS AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO NEW MEXICANS.

Visit FindATestNM.org
Scheduling a COVID-19 test from your computer or phone is easy!

- NM COVID-19 Test Site Directory: FindaTestNM.org
- Asymptomatic screening testing: NMDOH suggests Vault and Curative – Plan ahead!
- Symptomatic or close contact testing: local hospitals, public health offices, pharmacies, doctors’ offices, and Curative test sites
  - Over-the-counter rapid tests
Today’s Request: Let’s honor our teachers and all school staff — including nurses — who are on the front lines every day with children, keeping them safe, following COVID safe practices, communicating with parents, and moving learning forward.

Dr. Kurt Steinhaus
Secretary of Education (Designate)
How We’re Keeping Schools Safe

• School staff who are not vaccinated are required to test weekly
• Working to increase testing options, including onsite COVID-19 testing for staff and students
• Enhanced COVID-safe practices to avoid transition to remote learning
• Supporting schools to sponsor additional vaccination clinics
• Continually encouraging everyone who’s eligible to get vaccinated
It is Clear — *In-Person* Learning is Important

- In-person learning is prioritized
- Goal is always to protect the safety and health of students and staff

**Good news:** student and staff cases that were infectious while on campus dropped 37% last week from the week before.
COVID-19 surveillance testing is required for all schools

- The purpose of surveillance testing is to detect COVID-19 outbreaks as early as possible by screening asymptomatic individuals
- New $63 million DOH grant for COVID-19 testing in schools

Staff Positivity Rate (by percentage)
Enhanced COVID-Safe Practices

Schools are not required to automatically switch to remote learning upon four rapid responses within a 14-day period. Instead, all districts and charter schools must create and implement a district plan for enhanced COVID-safe practices.

- Plans include a summary of CSPs currently in place plus enhanced CSPs as needed (e.g., student cohorting, cessation of extra-curricular activities for unvaccinated students, prohibiting spectators and outside visitors).
- Plans are submitted to NMPED and must be posted on district, school or charter websites no later than October 1, 2021.

NOTE: NMDOH has the ability to temporarily close any public facility, including public schools, if infectious case counts become dangerously high or if district or charter plans for enhanced COVID-safe practices are insufficient to properly address public health concerns.
Local Option - Transition to Remote Learning

- **30 schools** opted to temporarily return to remote learning since August 6
- Currently, **NO schools** are in remote learning
- This school year—no NMPED school closures
Mobile Vaccination Clinics and Online Portal

- Since August 1, 2021 – 59 school-based vaccination events held across New Mexico
- Announced today – online social-emotional learning portal New Mexico Cares

School-Based Vax Events

**Roswell**
- 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- NM Military Institute
- 101 W. College Blvd.

**Los Lunas**
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- UNM Valencia
- 280 La Entrada Road

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and FREE
New Mexico Schools
COVID-19 Testing

A Partnership between NMDOH and NMPED
Support for New Mexico Schools
Safe and Healthy in Person Learning
Support made possible by CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Funding—Reopening of Schools Grant

- CK 19-1904 COVID-19 Supplemental Funds ELC Reopening Schools
- Part of the $1.9T American Rescue Plan of 2021
- Awarded by the CDC to NMDOH

**Award Amount**
- $63 million (85% for school COVID-19 testing and screening)

**Recipients**
- Public school districts and charters, nonpublic, Bureau of Indian Education and tribal schools

**Administration**
- The New Mexico Public Health Division, Office School and Adolescent Health
- Support from communications firm, Kesselman-Jones, Inc.

Flexible and customizable options at no cost to schools

New Mexico K-12 public school districts, public charters, nonpublic, BIE and tribal schools may opt into any or all program options, including:

• Full Service COVID-19 testing with Premier Medical Group providing testing personnel
• COVID-19 Training for school staff to learn to COVID-19 test
• School Abbott BinaxNOW Program
• Supplemental direct funding to each school
• Health information technology
Registration for the schools testing program

- 62 public school districts, public charters, nonpublic, BIE and tribal schools
- 30,179 education staff COVID-19 tests
- 184,808 student COVID-19 tests
Registration for the schools testing program

Registration by School Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Number of Registrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIE/Tribal</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Public</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public District</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Registrants</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration by Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of Registrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Mexico reopening of schools dashboard

A one stop portal for all COVID-19 school testing information and to register for program options

• Schools must apply to participate

• Apply at: www.NMSchoolsCOVIDTesting.com
NM COVID-19 Cases
Community transmission is HIGH in NM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Population Count</th>
<th>Number of Cases + Negative Tests (14 days)</th>
<th>Total New Cases per 100,000 persons</th>
<th>Percentage of Tests that are Positive During the Past 14 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harding</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Alamos</td>
<td>18856</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1178</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>149835</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>11449</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>27862</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>2329</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Arriba</td>
<td>38716</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>2467</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Baca</td>
<td>1840</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>27.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>4090</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>29.7</td>
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<td>Bernalillo</td>
<td>679590</td>
<td>2434</td>
<td>44567</td>
<td>25.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hidalgo</td>
<td>4242</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>20.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>146415</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>10305</td>
<td>28.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luna</td>
<td>24444</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>1780</td>
<td>30.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gila</td>
<td>26081</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>1535</td>
<td>24.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra</td>
<td>11705</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>38.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Miguel</td>
<td>126122</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>8458</td>
<td>29.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socorro</td>
<td>17193</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>1370</td>
<td>35.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valencia</td>
<td>75477</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>4061</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taos</td>
<td>32513</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>2070</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doña Ana</td>
<td>218836</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>13356</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otero</td>
<td>67700</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>4243</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guadalupe</td>
<td>4445</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Miguel</td>
<td>27969</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>4292</td>
<td>76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKinley</td>
<td>70330</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>4132</td>
<td>31.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catron</td>
<td>3553</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrance</td>
<td>15923</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mora</td>
<td>4566</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>48.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colfax</td>
<td>11903</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1042</td>
<td>57.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roosevelt</td>
<td>19901</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>1239</td>
<td>42.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quay</td>
<td>8396</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>60.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curry</td>
<td>49915</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>3770</td>
<td>67.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddy</td>
<td>58252</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>4457</td>
<td>77.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>19860</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>1596</td>
<td>79.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaves</td>
<td>64104</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>4662</td>
<td>79.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lea</td>
<td>71570</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>5398</td>
<td>95.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- = <30 cases/day
- = 30-150 cases/day
- = 150-300 cases/day
- = >300 cases/day

Delta variant continues to be majority of COVID-19 infections

COVID-19 cases in NM long term care facilities are rising

Number of COVID-19 Cases Amongst Staff at Residents in NM Long Term Care Facilities, by Week, April 25, 2021-September 13, 2021
## Long-term care facility visitation state and federal mandates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visitor</th>
<th>Vaccinated</th>
<th>Unvaccinated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Vaccinated| • In room visits without supervision  
             • May have close contact                                                  | • Closed window or virtual visits only                                    |
| Unvaccinated| • In designated visitation area with appropriate PPE  
                    • Resident may choose to have close contact                              | • Closed window or virtual visits only                                    |
NM modeling shows vaccines are protecting against COVID-19 infection

• LANL Modeling from 9/14/21 shows the relationship between vaccination and cases is strong and highly protective on a by-county basis

Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths by vaccination status over prior 4-week period


**Percent of Cases Hospitalizations and Deaths by Vaccine Status**
16 August, 2021 - 13 September, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Hospitalizations</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unvaccinated</td>
<td>4294 (19.7%)</td>
<td>127 (11.6%)</td>
<td>3 (2.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated</td>
<td>17456 (80.3%)</td>
<td>968 (88.4%)</td>
<td>120 (97.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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COVID Patients recently admitted to Lovelace Health System

124 HOSPITALIZED
18 VACCINATED

14 IN THE ICU
0 VACCINATED

7 ON VENTILATORS
0 VACCINATED
Estimated costs for treating unvaccinated patients in hospitals nationwide tops $5B

- In August, a new Pearson-KFF analysis estimates that the preventable costs of treating unvaccinated patients in hospitals total $3.7 billion, almost twice the estimates for June and July combined.

- The total preventable costs for July, July, and August now stand at an estimated $5.7 billion.

Unvaccinated COVID-19 hospitalizations cost billions of dollars - Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker
NM COVID-19
Hospitalizations and Deaths
Hospitalizations are still trending down in NM modeling projections

9/14/21 LANL Hospital Projections

9/14/21 Presbyterian Hospital Projections

Past projections overlaid on actual counts

Sep 11


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In the last week, there was an increase in 5–17-year-old hospitalizations in NM.

As expected, we continue to see an increase in COVID-19 deaths.
COVID-19 Treatments
There has been a significant increase in inpatient and outpatient mAbs treatments, but not enough!

Remdesivir (moderately ill, given in hospital)

mAbs (symptoms + >64, obese, OR one risk factor, given as outpatient)
Changes to nationwide mAbs allocations

• As of Monday, Sept. 13, HHS transitioned from a direct ordering process to a state/territory-coordinated distribution system

• HHS will determine the weekly amount of mAb products each state receives based on COVID-19 case burden and mAb utilization

• In NM, NMDOH will identify which sites receive product as well as the amount each site receives

• Providers, for more information visit: https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-19-monoclonal-antibody-treatments/
Misinformation moment: Ivermectin is NOT an approved treatment for COVID-19!

- Ivermectin is NOT authorized or approved by the FDA to prevent or treat any viral infection, including COVID-19.
- The NM Medical Advisory Team does not recommend ivermectin therapy in patients with COVID-19 infection outside of clinical trials until more data is available.
- NMDOH is now requiring provider reporting of Ivermectin toxicity.
- Taking Ivermectin without medical guidance and a prescription can be dangerous, or even fatal.

Call New Mexico Poison & Drug Information Center if you or someone you know has taken Ivermectin: 1-800-222-1222

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NM Poison Control Center Calls for Ivermectin Exposure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of Calls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1/2021</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1/2021</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1/2021</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1/2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/1/2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/1/2021</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/1/2021</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total calls since 1/1/21: 17 | Total calls since 8/6/21: 11
A 2nd county in the U.S. has declared misinformation a public health crisis

- Following the U.S. Surgeon General’s health advisory urging all Americans to help slow the spread of health misinformation, two California counties have now declared misinformation a public health crisis (San Diego and Monterey counties).

- Health misinformation is a serious threat to public health and can cause confusion, sow mistrust, harm people’s health, and undermine public health efforts.

Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo’s Twitter: https://twitter.com/supervisoralejo?lang=en

Monterey County would follow San Diego County’s leadership by...
West Las Vegas High School institutes masks for everyone at all outdoor district athletic events

“It’s to protect the kids and the staff,” West Las Vegas School District Superintendent Chris Gutierrez told the Santa Fe New Mexican in August, “...I figured the safest thing to do is to mask up, wash our hands and follow our COVID protocols.”

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/education/schools-take-varied-approaches-to-mask-mandates-in-athletics/article_a8a4afba-05e6-11ec-b9c7-13b05a82b695.html
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 a COVID-19 positive test, symptoms and risk factors, 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!