COVID-19 Day 587
Press Update
October 18, 2021

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Vaccine progress update

- **81.1%** of New Mexicans (18+) and 62.0% (12-17) have received at least a first dose
- **71.6%** of New Mexicans (18+) and 53.5% (12-17) are fully vaccinated
- **5.3%** of New Mexicans (18+) have received a booster dose (12-17 are not yet eligible)

[https://vaccinenm.org/public-dashboard.html](https://vaccinenm.org/public-dashboard.html)
Booster Dose Administration in NM
NM continues to effectively administer Pfizer booster doses

• Total third doses (additional and booster) administered 8/1/21–10/13/21 = 81,364 doses
• Total third doses (additional and booster) administered 9/24/21–10/13/21 = 58,828 doses
Anticipated Boosters for Moderna and J and J
Moderna boosters are making their way through the Federal approval process

• FDA VRBPAC committee voted 19-0 on 10/14/15 to recommend authorization of the Moderna 50 µg COVID-19 vaccine booster dose (a “half dose”)

• Available data support the safety and effectiveness of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for use under EUA as a booster dose for individuals:
  • 65+
  • 18-64 at high risk of severe COVID-19
  • 18-64 with heightened job and institutional exposure has them at higher risk of encounter
  • At least 6 months after completion of a primary series

• ACIP will meet on 10/21/21 to make recommendations regarding a Moderna COVID-19 booster dose
J and J booster dose approval process is also underway

- FDA VRBPAC committee voted 19-0 on 10/15/21 to recommend authorization of the J and J COVID-19 vaccine booster in individuals:
  - 18 years and older
  - At least 2 months after a single dose primary vaccination
- According to data presented, a booster dose increases vaccine effectiveness from ~75% to 94% and higher immunogenicity is achieved boosting 6 months post dose one
- ACIP will meet on 10/21/21 to make recommendations regarding a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 booster dose
COVID-19 Vaccines for 5-11 Year-olds
Clinical trial results: Pfizer vaccine effective and safe for 5-11 year-olds

- Three age groups studied:
  - 5 to <12 year-olds,
  - 2 to <5 year-olds, and
  - 6 months to <2 years
- 2,268 5-11 year-old participants
- Two-dose regimen of 10 mcg doses to children 5 and older
- Children under age 5 received a 3 mcg dose for each injection
- Doses given 21 days apart
- Expecting groups under 5 to be reviewed later this year/early 2022

Pfizer and BioNTech Submit Initial Data to U.S. FDA From Pivotal Trial of COVID-19 Vaccine in Children 5 to 11
Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine: Smaller doses, easier access for pediatricians

• 10 mcg dose (adult dose is 30 mcg)
• Expecting approval for 10-week refrigerator storage time and 300 vials/order first week, then 100 vials/order
• Smaller packs and extended refrigerator time help providers maintain a supply
Process for 5-11 year-olds EUA amendment authorizations

Step 1: 
Review and recommendation by VRBPAC (October 26)

Step 2: 
Review and final approval by FDA

Step 3: 
Review and recommendation by ACIP (November 2-3)

Step 4: 
Review and final approval by CDC

Step 5: 
Review and approval by NM Medical Advisory Team (early November)

FDA = US Food and Drug Administration
VRBPAC = Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (FDA committee)
CDC = Center for Disease Control
ACIP = Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC committee)
Vaccinating the unvaccinated is still our number one priority

- New Mexico’s 71.6% fully vaccinated rate for 18+ has helped protect our children
- Vaccinating 5-11 year-olds presents an exciting opportunity to further community immunity in NM
- While the morbidity and mortality of children is lower, they contract and transmit COVID-19 at the same rate
- Vaccinating kids will also help protect our adults
Schedule your COVID-19 vaccine appointment today

- If you are unvaccinated, scheduled your vaccine appointment NOW
- Appointments are available for eligible booster recipients
- Parents of 5-11 year-olds are encouraged to register ahead of vaccine roll out

VaccineNM.org
NM COVID-19 Cases
New Mexico COVID-19 Cases by Date of Specimen Collection
October 18, 2021

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

https://cvmodeling.nmhealth.org/

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New Mexico COVID-19 Cases by Date of Specimen Collection
Recent 6 Week View
October 18, 2021

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

https://cvmodeling.nmhealth.org/

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Levels of COVID-19 community transmission is currently high in ALL New Mexico counties

NM COVID-19
Hospitalizations and Deaths
New NM hospital admissions per 100,000 population each day with a 7-day rolling average

12/4/20: Crisis Standards of Care enacted
Evaluating NM hospital system’s capacity

NM Medical Advisory Team
Hospital Self-Evaluation Criteria

- Delays in Care (limited to critical services)
- Transfers (inability to transfer, transfer center active)
- Triage and Allocation (full activation)
- Emergency Department and Alternative Access Points (saturated access, active triage)
- ICU (>100% utilization x multiple days)
- Non-ICU (>100% utilization x multiple days)
- Modeling (predicting demand>supply)
- Redeployment (insufficient staff to meet needs)
- Sustainment (tiered staffing for exposed staff)
- Capacity (insufficient staff to maintain patient care)
- Ratios (unable to increase staff to patient ratios)
- Acquisition (supply chain unreliable, limited interfacility sharing)
- Management (able to reuse equipment/supplies)

NM Hospital Systems Capacity Self-Evaluation

- Crisis Standards of Care
- Contingency Level 2
- Contingency Level 1

12/04/20: Crisis Standards of Care enacted
10/12/21: 33.5

Self-evaluation data not collected between 3/3/21 and 8/17/21
ICU Beds

Total beds available: 11

Med/Surgical Beds

Available
COVID ICU Beds
October 18, 2021
Total beds available: 11

Available
Med/Surgical Beds (COVID)
October 18, 2021
Total beds available: 87
Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent hospitalization or death

Vaccination Report [https://cv.nmhealth.org/epidemiology-reports/](https://cv.nmhealth.org/epidemiology-reports/)

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Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent hospitalization or death.

1,039 deaths in NM, 967 preventable since 2/1/21.
COVID-19-associated hospitalizations continue to rise, especially in unvaccinated persons

- COVID-NET is a population-based surveillance system
- Collects data on lab-confirmed COVID-19-associated hospitalizations among children and adults through a network of over 250 acute-care hospitals in 14 states (including New Mexico)

CDC COVID Data Tracker

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NM hospital employee vaccination rates

As of October 10, 2021:

- 88.42% of New Mexico’s hospital employees are fully vaccinated
- 3.37% are partially vaccinated
- 7.54% have an approved exemption
- 0.67% remain unvaccinated
Unfortunately, we continue to see an increase in COVID-19 deaths.

Mortality Report [https://cv.nmhealth.org/epidemiology-reports/](https://cv.nmhealth.org/epidemiology-reports/)

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COVID-19 Treatments
Inpatient and outpatient mAbs treatments are at an all-time high in NM, reaching 2,061 treatments given from October 6-13

Remdesivir (moderately ill, given in hospital)

mAbs (symptoms + >64, obese, OR one risk factor, given as outpatient)
mAbs provider spotlights

Below are the top outpatient mAbs providers over the last week. “Thank you!” to these facilities and all other NM mAbs providers:

- Presbyterian Healthcare System – 140
- Nor Lea Hospital – 61
- Eastern NM Medical Center – 46
- Gallup Indian Medical Center – 36
- Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center – 36
NM Hospital Update
NM hub & spoke model for transfer center
Hospitals across the state are stretched thin by high volumes of patients and limited staffing resources

NMDOH and NM hospitals have taken various steps to help mitigate capacity issues, such as:

• Establishing a statewide patient transfer center
• Doubling up on patient beds
• Converting non-ICU areas of hospitals into ICU space
• Mandating workforce vaccinations
• Moving equipment/supplies where needed most, including ventilators
Save New Mexican lives –
Join the profession of nursing

New Mexico needs you!

• New Mexico Nurses Association
  • nmna.org
• New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council
  • nmnpc.org

https://drive.google.com/file/d/121q2Wt08BacMEGpxbYMBhhWN8IDqlZFc/view

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Crisis Standards of Care
The state recognizes that conditions requiring the implementation of crisis-level standards of care are present in NM hospitals

Ongoing efforts to mitigate staffing shortages include:

• Connecting hospitals with FEMA for additional staffing resources
• Contracting with nurses at the state level
• Expanding mAbs treatments via FEMA support
• Enacting Crisis Standards of Care (CSC)

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been confirmed in New Mexico since March 11, 2020, when the New Mexico Department of Health (“NMDOH” or the “Department”) confirmed the first cases of individuals infected with COVID-19 in New Mexico and additional cases have been confirmed each day since then;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, because of the spread of COVID-19, Michelle Lujan Grisham, the Governor of the State of New Mexico, issued Executive Order 2020-004 declaring that a Public Health Emergency exists in New Mexico under the Public Health Emergency Response Act, and invoked her authority under the All Hazards Emergency Management Act;
What are Crisis Standards of Care?

- A **substantial change** in unusual healthcare operations and the **level of care it is possible to deliver**, which is made necessary by a pervasive (e.g. pandemic influenza) or catastrophic (e.g. earthquake, hurricane) disaster.

- This change in the level of care delivered is justified by specific circumstances and is **formally declared by a state government** in recognition that crisis operations will be in effect for a substantial period.

- The formal declaration that crisis standards of care are in operation enables specific legal/regulatory power and protections for healthcare providers in the necessary task of allocating and using scarce medical resources and implementing alternate care facility operations.
What does Crisis Standards of Care mean for patients and providers?

- Hospitals and providers are already faced with difficult choices about who gets care
- Under CSC, facilities statewide will use a more standardized and equitable procedure for making those decisions
- Before a facility gets to this point, they must temporarily suspend non-medically necessary procedures
New Public Health Order provides flexibility for providers in acute care settings

• If hospitals need to move into CSC, the state will extend limited legal liability coverage to providers who move to higher levels of care than those in which they normally practice

• NMDOH will offer a credentialing system for these providers in the coming days
What Crisis Standards of Care does NOT mean

• CSC does not mean that New Mexicans should wait to seek care
• If you need care, please see your doctor!
The pandemic isn’t over. Please help protect New Mexico hospitals!

- 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!