



Navajo Nation: Covid-19 positive cases increase by 287, nearly 20 additional Chapter communities report positive cases

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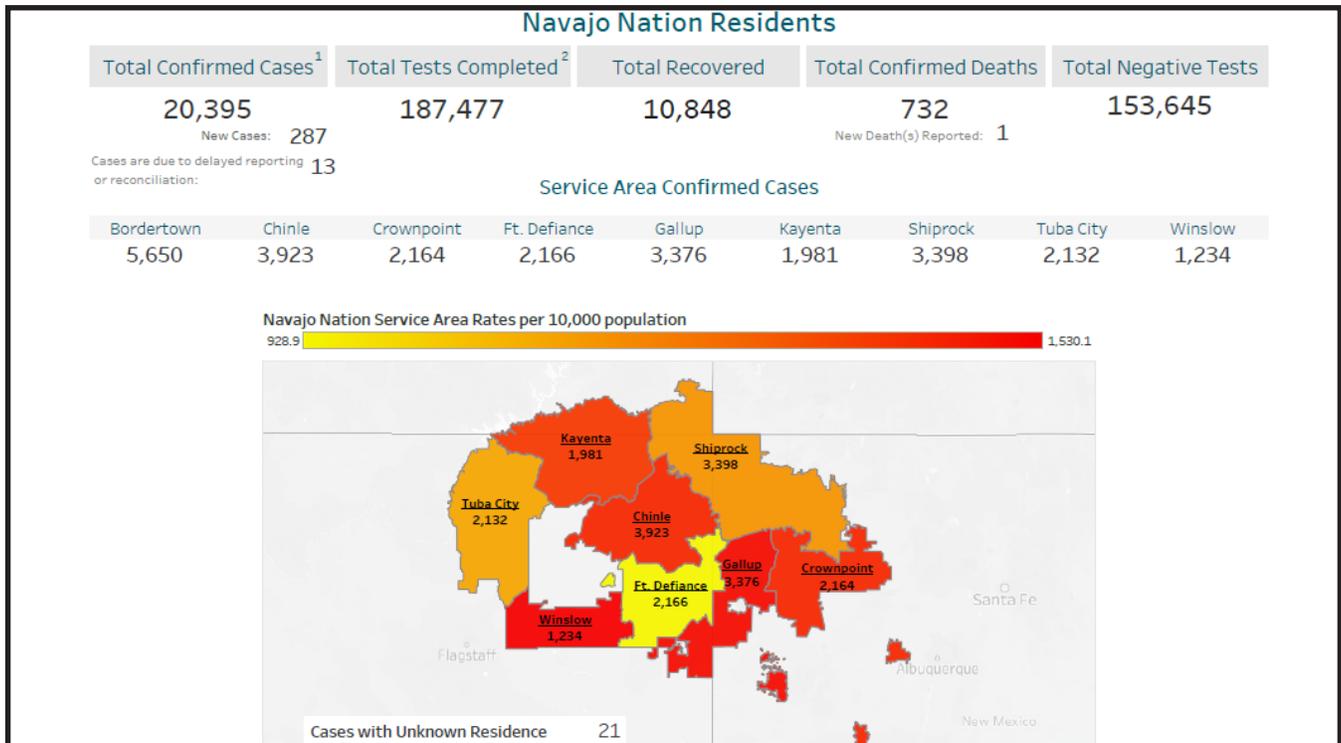


PHOTO: A screenshot of the Navajo Department of Health’s Covid-19 data dashboard for December 17, 2020. The website is accessible at: <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/Data>.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation’s update to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic situation report from the Health Command Operations Center (HCOC) for December 17, 2020 included data for testing, results, recoveries and mortalities related to Covid-19 in and around the Navajo Nation.

287 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 were reported on Thursday with 13 cases due to delayed reporting bring the total confirmed positive cases on the Navajo Nation to 20,395. The total number of mortalities related to Covid-19 increased by 1 within the 24-hour period, a total of 732 reported deaths since March. The report included 10,848 recovered cases. A total 187,477 Covid-19 tests have been completed with 153,645 tests that were returned with negative results.

“As we draw closer to the Christmas and New Year holidays, Navajo leaders ask the Navajo People to plan ahead and to take care to avoid any packed public spaces or holiday rushes. The CDC’s guidelines are especially important during these next few weeks, and we know it can be difficult to be at a distance from family and loved ones. We have so much to look forward to, not only as a Nation, but as individuals. The Council is continuing to meet, almost on a daily basis, to discuss and take action on important legislation that will further support the Navajo Nation during these next stages of the pandemic. As the vaccine becomes more available, we must each continue to take precautionary measures to protect against further spread,” said Speaker Seth Damon.

To better assist local Chapter communities and households with Stay-At-Home orders, the Navajo Nation Council received updates on the implementation of the Chapter Distribution Expenditure Plan approved through Resolution No. CS-73-20. The Division of Community Development reported that, with collaboration between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch, eight staging areas across the Navajo Nation are tentatively planned to move essential supplies from a warehouse facility in Window Rock to at least 100 Chapters.

A variety of essential supplies and foods began arriving to the Navajo Nation following a period of chapter coordination in which local communities submitted requests for Covid-19 support expenditures. The Division of Community Development is expected to give more details as the logistical details are finalized.

More Data

Navajo Nation Covid-19 Cases by Service Unit:

Chinle Service Unit:	3,923
Gallup Service Unit:	3,376
Shiprock Service Unit:	3,398
Crownpoint Service Unit:	2,164
Ft. Defiance Service Unit:	2,166
Kayenta Service Unit:	1,981
Tuba City Service Unit:	2,132
Winslow Service Unit:	1,234
Bordertowns:	5,650

70 chapters reported positive cases with the communities of heightened concern being: Tuba City (28), Shiprock (18), Tohajiilee (13), Birdsprings (12), Churchrock (12), Rock Springs (10), Tonalea (9), Upper Fruitland (9), Kayenta (8) and Chichiltah (7).

The NDOH and the Navajo Epidemiology Center provided the updated Covid-19 figures in coordination with tribally-controlled Public Law 19-638 healthcare facilities and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service. More information, including Covid-19 testing locations, can be found on the Navajo Nation's Covid-19 website at: <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.

The Office of Environmental Health and Protection, with the concurrence of the Navajo Department of Health (NDOH) and the HCOC, issued Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-031. The order continues the Stay at Home (Shelter in Place) Lockdown Order for three weeks, including full 57-hour weekend lockdowns.

The HCOC General Hotline can be reached at (928) 871-7014. Inquiries and requests may be sent to NNHCOCPlans@navajo-nsn.gov. The HCOC hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm, Saturday from 8am to 12pm and Sunday on standby status.

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