

## Numbers rise, test restrictions ease

Written by gallupsun  
Tuesday, 31 March 2020 19:00

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SANTA FE - New Mexico state health officials on announced 35 additional positive tests for COVID-19 and one case previously reported as positive in San Juan County, but it was negative.

New Mexico now has five deaths and 315 positive tests for COVID-19.

Per the state Department of Health, on March 31, the most recent cases are:

- 12 new cases in Bernalillo County
- 4 new cases in McKinley County
- 1 new case in Rio Arriba County
- 6 new cases in San Juan County
- 7 new cases in Sandoval County
- 4 new cases in Santa Fe County
- 1 new case in Taos County
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The Department of Health on March 31 also reported one additional death in New Mexico related to COVID-19.

The case is:

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- □ A male in his 40s in Bernalillo County who died March 29. The individual was found unresponsive at home. Test results for COVID-19 came back positive March 31. The man had an underlying medical condition.

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Including the above newly reported cases, here are the county totals for COVID-19 cases reported across New Mexico.

Bernalillo County: 129  
Chaves County: 10  
Cibola County: 2  
Curry County: 3  
Doña Ana County: 18  
Eddy County: 4  
Lea County: 2  
McKinley County: 16  
Rio Arriba County: 4  
Roosevelt County: 1  
Sandoval County: 29  
San Juan County: 32  
San Miguel County: 1  
Santa Fe County: 42  
Socorro County: 3  
Taos County: 11  
Torrance County: 3  
Valencia County: 5

County totals are subject to change upon further investigation and determination of residency of

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individuals positive for COVID-19.

As of March 31, there are 24 individuals hospitalized in New Mexico for COVID-19. This number may include individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 out of state, but are currently hospitalized in New Mexico. This number does not include New Mexicans who tested positive for COVID-19 and may have been transferred to a hospital out of state.

As of March 31, there are 26 COVID-19 cases designated as having recovered by the New Mexico Department of Health.

The Department of Health has detected community spread and is investigating cases with no known exposure. The agency reports that given the infectious nature of the virus, it is likely other residents are infected but yet to be tested, or confirmed positive. To that end, **all New Mexicans have been instructed to stay home except for outings that are absolutely necessary for health, safety and welfare**

These additional restrictions have been enacted to aggressively minimize person-to-person contact and to ensure spread is mitigated.

All businesses except those deemed essential have been ordered to close. New Mexicans are strongly urged to limit travel to only what is necessary for health, safety, and welfare.

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The New Mexico Department of Health has active investigations into the positive patients, which includes contact-tracing and swabs of symptomatic individuals who have had contact with the positive cases.

In her press conference March 31, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham announced efforts to locate properties to be used for field hospitals to expand care to an increasing tide of COVID-19 patients.

Also at the press conference was New Mexico Department of Health Cabinet Secretary Kathy Kunkel who said the state is easing its restrictions on people getting tested for COVID-19. She said it will no longer be necessary to get a referral if you are asking for a test from your public health department, and that asymptomatic people living in nursing homes and living in homes with other people who have tested positive for the virus can be tested.

