

The number of positive COVID-19 cases continues to rise on the Navajo Nation despite a stay-at-home order and all nonessential businesses being told to close.

The Navajo Department of Health and Navajo Area Indian Health Service, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center, said there are 214 cases on the Navajo Nation as of April 1, with another 40 cases being confirmed that day.

The 214 cases include the following counties:

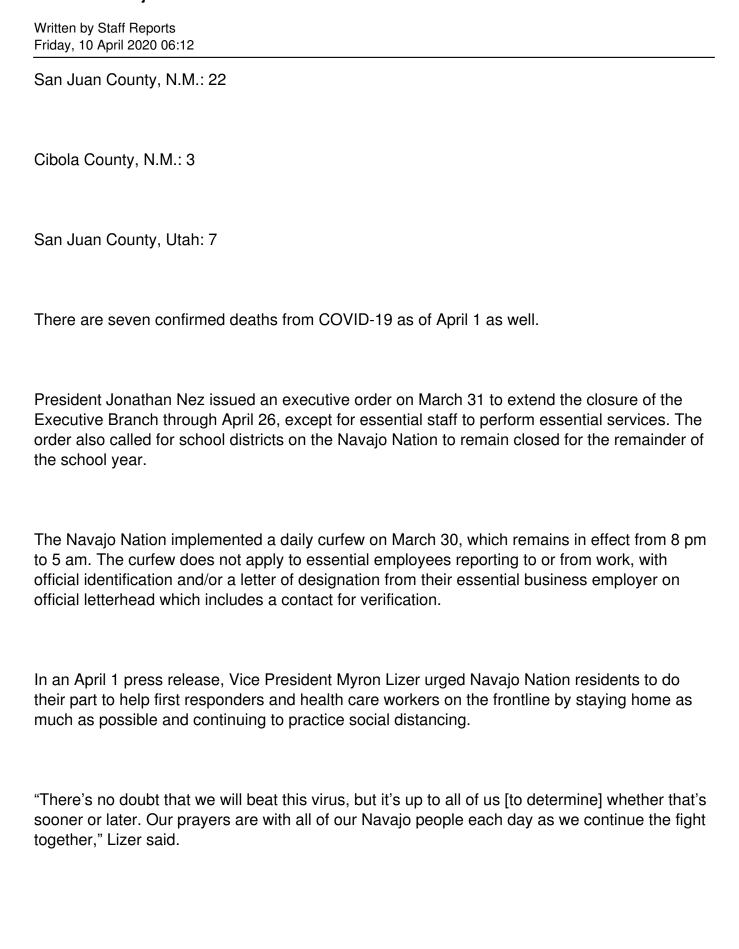
Navajo County, Ariz.: 97

Apache County, Ariz.: 22

Coconino County, Ariz.: 49

McKinley County, N.M.: 14

The latest Navajo Nation case numbers



TIMELINE OF THE VIRUS ON THE NAVAJO NATION

March 11: Navajo Nation declares Public Health State of Emergency. The Nez-Lizer Administration restricts off-reservation travel for Executive Branch employees.

March 17: The first two members of the Navajo Nation test positive for COVID-19. Both cases are located in the Chilchinbeto region near Kayenta, Ariz.

March 18: The third positive case in confirmed, also in Chilchinbeto. A Public Health Emergency Order was placed, forbidding large gatherings of people and ordering restaurants to close indoor seating. Billboards are set up across the Navajo Nation urging residents to stay at home for at least 15 days.

March 21: The total number of cases reaches 26 as the Navajo Nation's "Stay at Home Order" goes into effect. All businesses except those that provide essential services like food, gas, and medicine are ordered to close indefinitely. Residents are urged to not leave their homes except for essential services.

March 28: The first two deaths from COVID-19 are confirmed, along with an updated case number of 92.

March 30: The case count reaches 148 with five deaths. Nez and Lizer meet with health care officials and emergency responders who are working to fully establish a federal medical station to help fight the COVID-19 spread in the community of Chinle, Ariz.

March 31: The total positive case count reaches 174 with five deaths. The Nez-Lizer

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Administration begins the "Operation First of the Month" initiative, which aims to reduce the amount of traffic in reservation towns during the busy time at the start of April. Residents are urged to leave children and elders at home, and send only one person from each household for essential goods to reduce the risk to themselves and others.

April 1: With another 40 confirmed cases, the tally reaches 214 for the Navajo Nation. Another two deaths brings the total up to seven.

For more information on the Navajo Nation efforts in fighting COVID-19, visit http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19

Staff Reports