











State to provide flexibility for counties in reopening

Written by By Dominic Aragon Sun Correspondent
Friday, 11 December 2020 10:00











RED LEVEL

 ESSENTIAL RETAIL: 25% of maximum occupancy or 75 customers, whichever is smaller	 MASS GATHERINGS LIMIT: 5 persons, 10 vehicles
 FOOD & DRINK ESTABLISHMENTS: No indoor dining, outdoor dining allowed at 25% of maximum occupancy, establishments serving alcohol must close by 9PM	 CLOSE-CONTACT BUSINESSES: 25% of maximum occupancy or 10 customers at one time, whichever is smaller
 HOUSES OF WORSHIP: 25% of maximum occupancy	 OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: 25% of maximum occupancy
 PLACES OF LODGING: 40% of maximum occupancy for those that are NM Safe Certified, 25% for those that are not, 5 guests max for vacation rentals	 CLOSE-CONTACT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: Remain closed
 ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES: Must limit operations to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions	 ALL OTHER BUSINESSES, INCLUDING NON-ESSENTIAL RETAIL STORES: 25% of maximum occupancy or 75 customers at one time, whichever is smaller

YELLOW LEVEL

 ESSENTIAL RETAIL: 25% of maximum occupancy or 125 customers, whichever is smaller	 MASS GATHERINGS LIMIT: 10 persons, 25 vehicles
 FOOD & DRINK ESTABLISHMENTS: Indoor dining allowed at 25% of maximum occupancy, outdoor dining allowed at 75% of maximum occupancy, establishments serving alcohol must close by 10PM	 CLOSE-CONTACT BUSINESSES: 25% of maximum occupancy or 20 customers at one time, whichever is smaller
 HOUSES OF WORSHIP: 25% of maximum occupancy	 OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: 25% of maximum occupancy
 PLACES OF LODGING: 60% of maximum occupancy for those that are NM Safe Certified, 25% for those that are not, 5 guests max for vacation rentals	 CLOSE-CONTACT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: Remain closed
 ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES: Must limit operations to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions	 ALL OTHER BUSINESSES, INCLUDING NON-ESSENTIAL RETAIL STORES: 25% of maximum occupancy or 125 customers at one time, whichever is smaller

GREEN LEVEL

 ESSENTIAL RETAIL: 50% of maximum occupancy	 MASS GATHERINGS LIMIT: 20 persons, 100 vehicles
 FOOD & DRINK ESTABLISHMENTS: Indoor dining allowed at 50% of maximum occupancy, outdoor dining allowed at 75% of maximum occupancy	 CLOSE-CONTACT BUSINESSES: 50% of maximum occupancy
 HOUSES OF WORSHIP: 50% of maximum occupancy	 OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: 50% of maximum occupancy
 PLACES OF LODGING: 75% of maximum occupancy for those that are NM Safe Certified, 40% for those that are not, 10 guests max for vacation rentals	 CLOSE-CONTACT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: Remain closed
 ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES: Must limit operations to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions	 ALL OTHER BUSINESSES, INCLUDING NON-ESSENTIAL RETAIL STORES: 50% of maximum occupancy

Red-to-Green system to be used for New Mexico counties

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SANTA FE — Counties in New Mexico may be able to reopen and increase capacity at non-essential businesses.

On Dec. 2, the state transitioned into a three-tier county-by-county system that will determine where restrictions can be eased.

“The county-by-county framework enables counties, and the businesses and nonprofits within their borders, to operate with fewer restrictions when they slow the spread of the virus and drive down test positivity rates,” Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham explained.

“It’s been a difficult year and an especially difficult past month. We must remain as vigilant as ever to contain and beat the virus,” she said.

THREE-TIER SYSTEM

Under the new system, counties will be considered as red, yellow, or green.

If a county is deemed “red,” the state has determined the number of positive COVID-19 tests is very high and there is a high average of new cases. In red counties restrictions will remain in place.

Red county restrictions will limit indoor dining and reduce capacity at houses of worship to 25 percent.

If a county is “yellow,” there is a high average positivity rate. These counties can look forward to easing restrictions in the near future.

At this level, essential retail stores can have up to 125 customers or 25 percent of their

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maximum occupancy, whichever is smaller. Food-and-drink establishments can have up to 25 percent of their maximum occupancy.

If a county is declared “green,” it is considered a medium risk county and businesses considered to be “non-essential” can operate under fewer constraints.

A green county could be allowed up to 50 percent occupancy at essential retail stores. Additionally, indoor dining and houses of worship could have a maximum occupancy of 50 percent.

As of Nov. 30, 32 New Mexico counties are classified as red. Los Alamos County is the lone yellow county.

The county-by-county outlook is updated every other Wednesday. The next update will take place on Dec. 16.

The map can be accessed at cv.nmhealth.org/redtogreen.

CASE COUNTS

The Governor’s Office reported the Nov. 30 case count at 1,684, putting the total over 97,000 statewide.

Locally, 85 new COVID cases were reported in McKinley County on Nov. 30, bringing the area’s total confirmed case count to over 7,100.

In total, 1,568 New Mexicans have lost their lives to COVID-19, as of Nov. 30.

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