



## City of Gallup begins three-day lockdown at noon, May 1

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 1, 2020

A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

# CITY OF GALLUP, N.M. LOCKDOWN —IN EFFECT—

**BEGINS: MAY 1, 2020 AT 12:00 PM**

**ENDS: MAY 4, 2020 AT 12:00 PM**

Effective at 12 p.m., May 1, all roads into Gallup are closed. Businesses in the city of Gallup will close from 5 p.m. through 8 a.m. Vehicles may only have a maximum of two individuals. Residents of the city should remain at home except for emergency outings and those essential for health, safety and welfare.

**More information: <https://www.gallupnm.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=844>**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The New Mexico Governor's Office issued an order to close the City of Gallup effective May 1, 2020 at 12:00 PM. The emergency order will expire Monday, May 4, 2020 at 12:00 PM.

"The Navajo Nation Council has supported curfew efforts and social distancing guidelines," said 24th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon. "We understand the need for this drastic measure and we thank Governor Grisham for issuing the lockdown of the City of Gallup."

On a conference call today with the Office of the Speaker and the 24th Navajo Nation Council, the governor's office discussed the details of the shut down. Governor's staff said all roads into Gallup are to be closed and Gallup businesses will close from 5:00 PM through 8:00 AM.

"Regardless of what we do today, the number of cases will rise over the next two weeks," said the governor's office. Today's action will have an impact three weeks out, which is the overall intent of issuing the order in the interest of protecting public health.

The Office of the Speaker began requesting the shut-down of border town retail operations on Mar. 30, 2020. Through a letter to Mayor McKinney, Speaker Damon stated, "This would be an unprecedented order, but the current outbreak is highly contagious to a degree that we cannot risk the danger the first of the month poses to such great numbers of elders."

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued the order after both former Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney and current Mayor Louie Bonaguidi sent identical requests to the state.

The governor used the Riot Control Act and a state of emergency to prohibit any person from being on public streets, certain highways and other emergency restrictions. Failure to comply with restrictions will result in a misdemeanor. Repeated offenses will result in a fourth-degree felony.

The Navajo Nation issued a concurrent 57-hour lockdown this weekend, the fourth such nationwide curfew. Another Navajo Nation lockdown has been issued for next weekend, beginning May 8. The Navajo Nation curfews begin at 8:00 PM on Friday and end the following Monday at 5:00 AM.

The Navajo Nation Police Department will be patrolling Navajo Nation highways this weekend to enforce the Navajo Nation curfew.

“Vehicles may only have a maximum of two individuals. Residents of the city should remain at home except for emergency outings and those essential for health, safety and welfare,” stated the governor’s office.

Council delegates posed questions for specific cases to ensure Gallup is accessible by Navajo communities for emergency health care and medication services. Exits from Interstate 40 going into the City of Gallup will also be closed.

The governor’s office will be working with council delegates that have essential community needs that arise over the course of the closure. Those emergency needs will be communicated through council delegates to the Office of the Speaker and then to the governor’s office.

Council delegates noted that Navajo people will need a greater degree of support from the state and surrounding border town cities to combat the racial tensions that may arise from the order.

“We support this curfew, but people are already talking about accessing Gallup by backroads. How is this being implemented?” asked Council Delegate Mark Freeland. The governor’s office said all in-roads to the City of Gallup will be closed using city police, McKinley County sheriff’s department, state troopers, the Department of Transportation and the National Guard in a supportive role.

The State Task Force of the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council will hold a meeting with the Mayor Bonaguidi to assess the most effective approach towards possible continuation of the lockdown.

Additionally, several members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council will be introducing legislation over the next week to extend Navajo Nation weekend curfews to include weekdays. The legislation may also include expanded authorities to enforce the Navajo Nation lockdown.

The Navajo Nation Epidemiology Center reported 2,141 confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation as of Apr. 30. This was an increase of 164 cases over the previous 24 hours. 71 COVID-19 related deaths reported.

The Navajo Nation government advises all Navajo citizens to keep a record of travel and contact to help facilitate tracing of confirmed COVID-19 cases within communities.

More information about the Navajo Nation’s COVID-19 response or to donate to the nation’s relief effort, please visit the website: <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.

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