



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8

Date: May 1st, 2023
To: Pueblo of Laguna Residents, Members, and All Others
From: Governor Wilfred Herrera, Jr. *Wilfred Herrera, Jr.*
Re: **PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pueblo has worked tirelessly to protect our community. Through universal vaccinations, widespread testing, robust contact tracing, and the cooperation and commitment of our community, we have been able to keep our children, elders, and families safe. We continue to mourn those we have lost and pray for those who suffer. We maintain our commitment to limit the impact of this disease.

In New Mexico and around the U.S., declining infections, hospitalizations, and deaths from COVID-19 make clear that the pandemic has become an endemic, part of the “new normal” affecting our lives. Even with periodic “spikes” in infections, the precautions that Laguna has taken have protected the community from serious COVID-19 illness.

The Pueblo has defended the community from COVID-19. Now, individuals have primary responsibility for protecting our families, ourselves and our community. We are each responsible for taking steps to protect us all.

Executive Order No. 8 initiates another phase in our strategy. The Emergency Operations Command, will continue to provide accurate information and communication, access to up-to-date vaccinations (including all boosters) and early treatment, and freely available surveillance testing necessary to protect against COVID-19. Individuals will be responsible for monitoring the symptoms of themselves and their families, testing when appropriate, and self-isolation when individuals test positive.

New variants of COVID-19 will continue to emerge, each presenting different health risks. We may need to re-impose mandatory measures if infections and hospitalizations increase dangerously. For now, however, we encourage everyone to stay up to date with all recommend vaccinations and boosters; monitor symptoms: test when symptomatic or exposed; stop infectious spread by staying home; consult a medical provider if symptomatic and take anti-viral treatments if prescribed.

This Executive Order No. 8 is promulgated by authority of the Governor, with support of the Pueblo Council, under the Declaration of Public Health Emergency issued by the Governor on March 20, 2020 with the unanimous consent and support of the Council. This Order supersedes all previous Executive Orders issued under the Declaration except where specifically stated. This Order applies to any person present within the Pueblo’s jurisdiction.

1. COVID-19 Safe Practices. All individuals over the age of 2 years within the jurisdiction of the Pueblo of Laguna are strongly encouraged to follow these COVID-19 Safe Practices:

- a. **Vaccinate and boost.** Everyone who is eligible is ***strongly encouraged*** to stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines and maintain all recommended boosters.¹
- b. **Monitor symptoms daily.** Please check yourself and household members daily for COVID-19 symptoms every day. COVID-19 symptoms include loss of taste or smell, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, muscle pain, chills).
- c. **Stay home if symptomatic.** Anyone having any of these symptoms, even if not serious, should stay home, just as you would with any other potentially infectious symptoms.
- d. **Get tested if symptomatic or exposed.**
- e. **Consult a medical provider if you're symptomatic or test positive and take anti-viral medication early if prescribed.**
- f. **Wear a Face Mask when indoors among people you don't know.** *Face masks are optional, but encouraged when indoors or in enclosed areas with strangers whose vaccination status you don't know.* Masks continue to be available from the EOC upon request.

2. Specific COVID-19 Testing and Isolation Recommendations.

- a. Any person experiencing one or more COVID-19 symptoms is encouraged to consult with a medical professional or the EOC when such symptoms occur and obtain a COVID-19 test in accordance with their advice.
- b. Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 from either a PCR or a home rapid test should stay home to stop the spread of the virus, just as you would with the flu or another infectious disease.
- c. The EOC remains available for advice and information.

3. Business and Pueblo Entity Operations. Businesses and Pueblo-chartered enterprises will be responsible for establishing their own vaccination and booster requirements and their own policies on masking requirements.

- a. Operating Hours and Capacity. Each such entity shall exercise its best judgment in determining operating hours and capacity keeping in mind the importance of protecting customers, employees, and the community.
- b. Symptom Screening. All employees of such entities are strongly encouraged to screen themselves and household members daily for COVID-19 symptoms (loss of taste or smell, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, or muscle pain); stay home when symptomatic to avoid infectious spread; and inform their employer and consult the EOC or a medical professional when any such symptoms occur.

¹ Vaccination recommendations do not apply to those who ineligible for vaccination (presently including those under five years old) nor to anyone who has been advised by a medical professional not to be vaccinated.

For more information, visit:
POL website COVID-19 Info link at www.lagunapueblo-nsn.gov or
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/pol.covid19/>

For COVID-19 Safe Practice recommendations:
Call EOC Hotline – (505) 328-5682 or
Email covidinfo@pol-nsn.gov