

# NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ  
ACTING CABINET SECRETARY

December 1, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Presidents, Chancellors, and Higher Education Leaders  
**FROM:** Stephanie Rodriguez, Acting Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department  
**RE:** Updated Public Health Order and Red to Green Framework

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Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico Department of Health have updated the public health order, which will observe the new Red to Green Framework starting on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. This is a continuance of our efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our communities while allowing some flexibility. Counties where the virus is suppressed will operate under less restrictive measures, whereas counties where the virus is more prevalent will have mitigative measures and restrictions in place. Please click [here](#) to view the State of New Mexico's dedicated webpage for the newly implemented framework. Additionally, the updated public health order and Red to Green Framework document are attached for your convenience.

In summary, counties will operate under one of three levels: Red, signifying very high risk; Yellow, signifying high risk; and Green, signifying medium risk. Allowable operations under each level considers maximum capacity rates and mass gathering limitations. Masks and proper social distancing are still a requirement in addition to COVID-safe practices. The [statewide map](#) will continue to capture cases and averages over a period of time that accurately reflects the rate of spread within each county. The map will be updated every other Wednesday.

The spread of COVID-19 remains a statewide emergency. Hospitals and health care providers across New Mexico are strained in responding to the increase in cases and deaths caused by the virus. And as positive cases continue to impact higher education both on and off campus, it is critical that non-essential personnel on your campus continue to work remotely at this time. We must continue to do our part in stopping the spread of the virus in our communities. Please note that out-of-state travel still requires a 14-day quarantine.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department appreciates your ongoing support of the agency, public health orders, and executive orders. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the agency via email at [NMHED.COVID@state.nm.us](mailto:NMHED.COVID@state.nm.us).