

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's March 23 Public Health Order

At a March 23 press conference, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham addressed the citizens of our state with a new public health order. The key principle: “New Mexico citizens should stay at home and undertake only those outings absolutely necessary for their health, safety, or welfare.” Her order prohibits mass gatherings, which she defines as “any public or private gathering that brings together five or more individuals in a single room or connected space, confined outdoor space, or an open outdoor space where individuals are within six feet of each other, but does not include the presence of five or more individuals where those individuals regularly reside.”

Her order also directs “all businesses, except those entities identified as ‘essential businesses’...to reduce the in-person workforce at each business or business location by 100%.” The governor’s order provides a long list of essential businesses, “which may remain open provided they minimize their operations and staff to the greatest extent possible, and requests that [they] adhere to social distancing protocol and maintain at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, avoid person-to-person contact, and direct employees to wash their hands frequently. Further, all essential businesses shall ensure that all surfaces are cleaned routinely.” Many of us are affected by the order, of course, and know that it is in place for the good of the order and public health.

The governor adds that her order “only requires the closure of physical office spaces, retail spaces, or other public spaces of a business and does not otherwise restrict the conduct of business operations through telecommuting or otherwise working from home in which an employee only interacts with clients or customers remotely.”

For those of you who are picking up Grab-&-Go lunch from Guadalupe Montessori School (available weekdays from 11:30-12:30), note that the governor’s order “does **NOT** apply to public schools. School meal sites should follow the same guidelines as grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores and restaurants: meals should be provided for takeout or delivery only. No one will be allowed to stay and to eat on the premises. Transportation workers who are delivering meals are also not affected by the latest order.”

If you would like to read the complete text of the governor’s order, it is available at [COVID-19 DOH Order updated 3.23.pdf](#).

With kind regards,
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