



Office of the Governor

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**N.M. modifies Red-Yellow-Green system,  
permitting more day-to-day activities**  
*Turquoise Level will include minimal health restrictions*

SANTA FE – The state of New Mexico’s Red-Yellow-Green framework for aligning county-level requirements and guidelines with local virus risk has been modified to permit more day-to-day and commercial activities, reflecting the improving COVID-19 outlook across the state as New Mexicans help drive down transmission and vaccine distribution contributes to decreased community spread.

The framework includes **a new least restrictive level where all categories of business can operate indoors with minimal occupancy limitations**, depending on the risk level of the activity. A county will reach this least restrictive level, the Turquoise Level, by meeting key health criteria for two consecutive two-week periods and effectively graduating out of the Red-Yellow-Green framework, provided the virus remains suppressed.

An updated Department of Health public health order is attached to this news release and is effective Wednesday, Feb. 24.

“I know New Mexicans are tired of COVID-19 – I am too,” said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. “We have made very solid progress in recent weeks and months, and we have all together saved lives and protected our family members and neighbors. We have to keep it up. We’ve seen what happens when we ease up too quickly or let our guard down all at once – our hospitals fill back up and more New Mexicans lose their lives. We can and we must keep making safe choices in our day-to-day lives. We can introduce a little more risk, based on our progress, and start to feel a little bit closer to normal – but only if we keep making those safe choices to protect our families and one another. I know New Mexicans are up to the task.”

The framework assigns a risk level – and corresponding color – to New Mexico counties based on key health metrics over a two-week timeframe. The health metrics – a test positivity rate below 5 percent and a new per-capita case rate of fewer than 8 per 100,000 – measure the incidence and spread of COVID-19 in a given community. A county that meets one of the criteria may operate at the Yellow Level; a county that meets both may operate at the Green Level; counties that meet neither of the criteria must operate at the Red Level.

The framework has helped limit large congregations of people that would have slowed the state’s gradual progress in controlling COVID-19. It is designed to match a local area’s decreasing risk level with loosened requirements, and vice versa, and to balance the need to contain the virus with the need for standard localized “openness” amid this stage of the pandemic.

As of Feb. 10, 14 counties are operating at the Red Level, signifying very high risk; 15 counties are operating at the Yellow Level, signifying high risk; and 4 counties are operating at the Green Level, signifying medium risk. The Department of Health updates the county-by-county map on a biweekly basis to account for an epidemiologically meaningful period of time. The next update is scheduled for the afternoon of Feb. 24.

The county-by-county framework will as of Feb. 24 include a new least-restrictive designation signifying low risk: the Turquoise Level. A county may operate at the Turquoise Level after having met both key health metrics for four weeks. In other words, a county that meets the criteria to operate at the Green Level for two consecutive biweekly map updates will elevate to the Turquoise Level, which includes significantly fewer restrictions on commercial and day-to-day activities.

The Turquoise Level includes provisions for expanded indoor dining, the operation of entertainment venues like theaters, bars and clubs and more.

The updated risk framework and public health order also include the following changes:

- Businesses that had previously been categorized as “close-contact recreational facilities,” and closed at each level of the risk system, **will be recategorized and permitted to operate at limited capacities** depending on their new category and the risk level of the county in which they operate.
- State parks, which had previously been open only for day-use for New Mexico residents, will now be open to camping with reservations and day-use for all.

## **LARGE ENTERTAINMENT VENUES, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, BARS**

Previously the state public health order had categorized certain businesses requiring longer periods of close contact among patrons as “close-contact recreational facilities,” which were closed at all risk levels.

Those businesses will be recategorized and permitted to operate in a manner that corresponds to the risk level of the county in which they operate, as outlined in the updated public health order:

- **“Large entertainment venues”** are defined as any publicly or privately owned venue typically or actually used to host large audiences for the purposes of entertainment or amusement, including but not limited to **racetracks, concert venues, movie theaters, performance venues, professional sports venues and theaters.**
  - At the Turquoise Level, these venues may operate at up to 33 percent of maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or department, and up to 75 percent of maximum occupancy of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - At the Green Level, these venues may operate at up to 25 percent of maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or department, and up to 50 percent of maximum occupancy of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - At the Yellow Level, these venues may operate at up to 25 percent of any outdoor space on the premises but may not permit patrons to enter the indoor portions of the venue except for the limited purpose of using a restroom; employees may occupy the indoor portion of the facility to the extent necessary to operate the outdoor portion.
  - At the Red Level, these venues may not operate.
- **“Recreational facilities”** are defined as any publicly or privately owned facility typically or actually used for recreational activities capable of bringing persons within close proximity of one another, including but not limited to **aquariums, amusement parks, arcades, basketball courts, baseball fields, bowling alleys, botanical gardens, family entertainment centers, football fields, go-kart courses, golf courses, ice-skating rinks, museums with interactive displays or exhibits, miniature golf courses, ski areas, soccer fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, youth programs, trampoline parks and zoos.**
  - At the Turquoise Level, these facilities may operate at up to 50 percent of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises and up to 75 percent of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - At the Green Level, these facilities may operate at up to 25 percent of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises and up to 50 percent of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - At the Yellow Level, these facilities may operate at up to 33 percent of maximum occupancy at any outdoor space on the premises; employees may occupy the indoor portion of the facility to the extent necessary to operate the outdoor portion.
  - At the Red Level, these facilities may operate at up to 25 percent of maximum occupancy of any outdoor space on the premises; employees may occupy the indoor portion of the facility to the extent necessary to operate the outdoor portion.

- **“Bars and clubs”** are defined as any business that typically or actually generates more than half of its revenue from the sale of alcohol for on-premises consumption – including **adult entertainment venues, nightclubs, and dance clubs**, regardless of the source of their revenue.
  - At the Turquoise Level, bars and clubs may operate at up to 33 percent of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises and up to 75 percent of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - At the Green Level, bars and clubs may operate at up to 25 percent of any outdoor space on the premises; employees may occupy the indoor portion of the facility to the extent necessary to operate the outdoor portion.
  - At the Yellow Level, bars and clubs may not operate.
  - At the Red Level, bars and clubs may not operate.

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The categories and definitions for each risk level are available below and available at [cv.nmhealth.org/redtogreen](http://cv.nmhealth.org/redtogreen).

### **TURQUOISE LEVEL:**

Counties at the Turquoise Level have **both** a new COVID-19 case incidence rate of no greater than 8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants during the most recent four-week period, **and** an average percent of positive COVID-19 test results over the most recent four-week period less than or equal to 5%.

**Essential businesses (non-retail):** No capacity restrictions but operations must be limited to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions

**Essential retail spaces:** 75% of maximum capacity (indoor and outdoor)

**Food and drink establishments (if NM Safe Certified):** 75% of maximum capacity for indoor dining; 75% of maximum capacity for outdoor dining

**Close-contact businesses:** 75% of maximum capacity; no restrictions on outdoor spaces

**Large entertainment venues:** 33% of maximum capacity for any indoor/enclosed space on premises; 75% of any outdoor space on premises

**Recreational facilities:** 50% of maximum capacity of any indoor/enclosed space on the premises; 75% of any outdoor space on premises

**Bars and clubs:** 33% of maximum capacity of any indoor/enclosed space on premises; 75% of any outdoor space on premises, where applicable

**\*\*All other businesses:** 75% of maximum capacity indoors; no restrictions on outdoor spaces

**Houses of worship:** May hold religious services, indoors or outdoors, or provide services through audiovisual means, but may not exceed 75% of the maximum capacity of any enclosed space on the premises

**Places of lodging:** No maximum occupancy restrictions for those that have completed NM Safe Certified training; 50% of maximum occupancy for all others; 15 guests maximum for vacation rentals

**Mass gatherings limit:** 150 persons, or 200 vehicles

### **GREEN LEVEL:**

Counties at the Green Level have **both** a new COVID-19 case incidence rate of no greater than 8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants during the most recent two-week period, **and** an average percent of positive COVID-19 test results over the most recent 14-day period less than or equal to 5%.

**Essential businesses (non-retail):** No capacity restrictions but operations must be limited to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions

**Essential retail spaces:** 50% of maximum capacity (indoor and outdoor)

**Food and drink establishments (if NM Safe Certified):** 50% of maximum capacity for indoor dining; 75% of maximum capacity for outdoor dining

**Close-contact businesses:** 50% of maximum capacity (indoor and outdoor)

**Large entertainment venues:** 25% of maximum capacity for any indoor/enclosed space on premises; 50% of any outdoor space on premises

**Recreational facilities:** 25% of maximum capacity of any indoor/enclosed space on the premises; 50% of any outdoor space on the premises

**Bars and clubs:** 25% of maximum capacity of any outdoor space on premises, where applicable; indoor not permitted

**\*\*All other businesses:** 50% of maximum capacity (indoor and outdoor)

**Houses of worship:** May hold religious services, indoors or outdoors, or provide services through audiovisual means, but may not exceed 50% of the maximum capacity of any enclosed space on the premises

**Places of lodging:** 75% of maximum occupancy for those that have completed NM Safe Certified training; 40% of maximum occupancy for all others; 10 guests maximum for vacation rentals

**Mass gatherings limit:** 20 persons, 120 vehicles

### **YELLOW LEVEL:**

Counties at the Yellow Level have **either** a new COVID-19 case incidence rate of no greater than 8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants during the most recent two-week period, **or** an average percent of positive COVID-19 test results over the most recent 14-day period less than or equal to 5%.

**Essential businesses (non-retail):** No capacity restrictions but operations must be limited to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions

**Essential retail spaces:** 33% of maximum capacity (indoor and outdoor)

**Food and drink establishments (if NM Safe Certified):** 25% of maximum capacity for indoor dining; 75% of maximum capacity for outdoors dining; any establishment serving alcohol must close by 10 p.m. each night

**Close-contact businesses:** 33% of maximum capacity or 20 customers at one time, whichever is smaller; 33% of any outdoor space on the premises

**Large entertainment venues:** 25% of maximum capacity of any outdoor space on premises; indoor not permitted with the limited exception of operating up to 25% of

maximum capacity for recording and broadcasting entertainment without any in-person audience

**Recreational facilities:** 33% of any outdoor space on the premises; indoor not permitted

**Bars and clubs:** May not operate

**\*\*All other businesses:** 33% of maximum capacity (indoor and outdoor)

**Houses of worship:** May hold religious services, indoors or outdoors, or provide services through audiovisual means, but may not exceed 33% of the maximum capacity of any enclosed space on the premises

**Places of lodging:** 60% of maximum occupancy for those that have completed NM Safe Certified training; 25% of maximum occupancy for all others; 5 guests maximum for vacation rentals

**Mass gatherings limit:** 10 persons; 80 vehicles

### **RED LEVEL:**

Counties at the Red Level are those with a new COVID-19 case incident rate of greater than 8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants during the most recent two-week period and an average percent of positive COVID-19 test results over the most recent 14-day period greater than 5%.

**Essential businesses (non-retail):** No capacity restrictions but must limit operations to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions

**Essential retail spaces:** 25% of maximum capacity (indoor and outdoor)

**Food and drink establishments:** No indoor dining permitted; 25% of maximum capacity for outdoor dining; any establishment serving alcohol must close by 9 p.m. each night

**Close-contact businesses:** 25% of maximum capacity or 10 customers at one time, whichever is smaller; 25% of any outdoor space on the premises

**Large entertainment venues:** May not operate

**Recreational facilities:** 25% of maximum capacity of any outdoor space on the premises; indoor not permitted

**Bars and clubs:** May not operate

**\*\*All other businesses:** 25% of maximum capacity (indoor and outdoor)

**Houses of worship:** May hold religious services, indoors or outdoors, or provide services through audiovisual means, but may not exceed 25% of the maximum capacity of any enclosed space on the premises

**Places of lodging:** 40% of maximum occupancy for those that have completed NM Safe Certified training; 25% of maximum occupancy for all others; 5 guests maximum for vacation rentals

**Mass gatherings limit:** 5 persons, 40 vehicles

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### **Categories and definitions within the public health order:**

**Essential businesses (non-retail):** These are any business or nonprofit entity falling within one or more of the following categories:

- Health care operations including hospitals, walk-in-care health facilities, pharmacies, medical wholesale and distribution, home health care workers or aides for the elderly, emergency dental facilities, nursing homes, residential health care facilities, research facilities, congregate care facilities, intermediate care facilities for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, supportive living homes, home health care providers, drug and alcohol recovery support services, and medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers;
- Homeless shelters, food banks, and other services providing care to indigent or needy populations;
- Childcare facilities;
- Farms, ranches, and other food cultivation, processing, or packaging operations;
- Infrastructure operations including, but not limited to, public works construction, commercial and residential construction and maintenance, self-storage facilities, airport operations, public transportation, airlines, taxis, private transportation providers, transportation network companies, water, gas, electrical, oil drilling, oil refining, natural resources extraction or mining operations, nuclear material research and enrichment, those attendant to the repair and construction of roads and highways, gas stations, solid waste collection and removal, trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, sewer, data and internet providers, data centers, technology support operations, and telecommunications systems;
- Manufacturing operations involved in food processing, manufacturing agents, chemicals, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals, sanitary products, household paper products, microelectronics/semiconductor, primary metals manufacturers, electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturers, and transportation equipment manufacturers;
- Services necessary to maintain the safety and sanitation of residences or essential businesses including security services, towing services, custodial services, plumbers, electricians, and other skilled trades;
- Veterinary and livestock services, animal shelters and facilities providing pet adoption, daycare, or boarding services;
- Media services;
- Utilities, including their contractors, suppliers, and supportive operations, engaged in power generation, fuel supply and transmission, water and wastewater supply;
- Crematoriums, funeral homes and cemeteries;
- Banks, credit unions, insurance providers, payroll services, brokerage services, and investment management firms;
- Businesses providing mailing and shipping services;
- Laboratories and defense and national security-related operations supporting the United States government, a contractor to the United States government, or any federal entity;
- Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, but only where necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities; and

- Logistics, and also businesses that store, transport, or deliver groceries, food, materials, goods or services directly to residences, retailers, government institutions, or essential businesses.

**Essential retail spaces:** These include grocery stores, supermarkets, food banks, farmers' markets and vendors who sell food, convenience stores, and other businesses that generate more than one-third of their revenue from the sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet food, animal feed or supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other consumable food and drink products; automobile repair facilities, bike repair facilities, and retailers who generate the majority of their revenue from the sale of automobile or bike repair products; hardware stores; laundromats; and dry cleaner services.

**Food and drink establishments:** These are restaurants, breweries, wineries, distillers, cafes, coffee shops, or other similar establishments that offer food or drink.

**Close-contact businesses:** These are barbershops, hair salons, tattoo parlors, nail salons, spas, massage therapy services, esthetician clinics and tanning salons.

**Recreational facilities:** These are any publicly or privately owned facility typically or actually used for recreational activities capable of bringing persons within close proximity of one another, including aquariums, amusement parks, arcades, basketball courts, baseball fields, bowling alleys, botanical gardens, family entertainment centers, football fields, go-kart courses, golf courses, ice-skating rinks, museums with interactive displays or exhibits, miniature golf courses, ski areas, soccer fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, youth programs, guided raft tours, guided balloon tours and zoos.

**Bars and clubs:** These are any business that typically or actually generates more than half of its revenue from the sale of alcohol for on-premises consumption – including adult entertainment venues, nightclubs, and dance clubs, regardless of the source of their revenue.

**Large entertainment venues:** These are as any publicly or privately owned venue typically or actually used to host large audiences for the purposes of entertainment or amusement, including racetracks, concert venues, movie theaters, performance venues, professional sports venues and theaters.

**Houses of worship:** These are any church, synagogue, mosque, or other gathering space where persons congregate to exercise their religious beliefs.

**Places of lodging:** These are hotels, motels, RV parks, and short-term vacation rentals.

**Mass gatherings:** These are any public gathering, private gathering, organized event, ceremony, parade, funeral, or any other grouping that brings together a specified number of individuals in a single room or connected space, confined outdoor space, or



open outdoor space. “Mass gatherings” also include coordinated events in which individuals gather in vehicles. “Mass gatherings” do not include the presence of any number of individuals where those individuals regularly reside. “Mass gathering” does not include individuals who are public officials or public employees in the course and scope of their employment.

**\*\*All other businesses:** These are any entities that are not identified explicitly as an “essential business,” “house of worship,” “recreational facility,” “large entertainment venue,” “food and drink establishment,” “bars or clubs” or “place of lodging.” Examples would include non-essential retail spaces like a clothing store, a gym, a group fitness class or a personal training service, among others.

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**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER  
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE TRACIE C. COLLINS, M.D.**

**February 24, 2021**

**Public Health Emergency Order Clarifying that Current Guidance Documents, Advisories, and Emergency Public Health Orders Remain in Effect; and Amending Prior Public Health Emergency Orders to Impose County-by-County Restrictions Due to COVID-19**

**PREFACE**

The purpose of this amended Public Health Emergency Order is to amend restrictions on mass gatherings and business operations, which were implemented in response to the spread of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”). Continued social distancing and self-isolation measures are necessary to protect public health given the devastating effects that are now resulting from the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in New Mexico. It remains the core purpose of this Order to emphasize that all New Mexicans should be staying in their homes for all but the most essential activities and services. When New Mexicans are not in their homes, they must strictly adhere to social distancing protocols and wear face coverings to minimize risks. These sacrifices are the best contribution that each of us can individually make to protect the health and wellbeing of our fellow citizens and the State as a whole. In accordance with these purposes, this Order and its exceptions should be narrowly construed to encourage New Mexicans to stay in their homes for all but the most essential activities.

It is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. All current guidance documents and advisories issued by the Department of Health remain in effect.
2. The following Public Health Emergency Orders remain in effect through the current Public Health Emergency and any subsequent renewals of that Public Health Emergency or until they are amended or rescinded:
  - A. March 24, 2020 Public Health Emergency Order Temporarily Regulating the Sale and Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment Due to Shortages Caused by COVID-19;
  - B. December 15, 2020 Amended Public Health Emergency Order Implementing Additional Contact Tracing Information Requirements for All Laboratories and Submitters Submitting Notifiable Condition COVID-19 Test Results to the New Mexico Epidemiology and Response Division;

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- C. January 8, 2021 Emergency Order Implementing Administration and Reporting Requirements for All COVID-19 Vaccine Providers; and
- D. January 29, 2021 Amended Public Health Emergency Order Temporarily Limiting Long-Term Care Facilities Visitation Due to COVID-19.

3. The January 29, 2021 Public Health Emergency Order Clarifying that Current Guidance Documents, Advisories, and Emergency Public Health Orders Remain in Effect; and Amending Prior Public Health Emergency Orders to Impose County-by-County Restrictions Due to COVID-19 is hereby amended as follows:

### **ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, because of the spread of the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), Michelle Lujan Grisham, the Governor of the State of New Mexico, declared that a Public Health Emergency exists in New Mexico under the Public Health Emergency Response Act, and invoked her authority under the All Hazards Emergency Management Act;

**WHEREAS**, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has renewed the declaration of a Public Health Emergency through March 5, 2021;

**WHEREAS**, confirmed cases in the United States have risen to more than 28 million and confirmed COVID-19 infections in New Mexico have risen to over 183,000;

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a deadly virus and has taken the lives of over 500,000 Americans and over 3,600 New Mexicans;

**WHEREAS**, the further spread of COVID-19 in the State of New Mexico poses a threat to the health, safety, wellbeing and property of the residents in the State due to, among other things, illness from COVID-19, illness-related absenteeism from employment (particularly among public safety and law enforcement personnel and persons engaged in activities and businesses critical to the economy and infrastructure of the State), potential displacement of persons, and closures of schools or other places of public gathering;

**WHEREAS**, social distancing and the consistent and proper use of face coverings in public spaces are the most effective ways New Mexicans can minimize the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the potentially devastating impact of this pandemic in New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Department of Health possesses legal authority pursuant to the Public Health Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 24-1-1 to -40, the Public Health Emergency Response Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10A-1 to -19, the Department of Health Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 9-7-1 to -18, and inherent constitutional police powers of the New Mexico state government, to preserve and promote public health and safety, to adopt isolation and quarantine, and to close public places and forbid gatherings of people when deemed necessary by the Department for the protection of public health.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Tracie C. Collins, M.D., Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Mexico, and as directed by the Governor pursuant to the full scope of her emergency powers under the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, do hereby declare the current outbreak of COVID-19 a condition of public health importance, as defined in NMSA 1978, Section 24-1-2(A) as an infection, a disease, a syndrome, a symptom, an injury or other threat that is identifiable on an individual or community level and can reasonably be expected to lead to adverse health effects in the community, and that poses an imminent threat of substantial harm to the population of New Mexico.

## **DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Order, the following terms shall have the meaning given to them, except where the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) “Essential businesses” means any business or non-profit entity falling within one or more of the following categories:

a. Health care operations including hospitals, walk-in-care health facilities, pharmacies, medical wholesale and distribution, home health care workers or aides for the elderly, emergency dental facilities, nursing homes, residential health care facilities, research facilities, congregate care facilities, intermediate care facilities for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, supportive living homes, home health care providers, drug and alcohol recovery support services, and medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers;

b. Homeless shelters, food banks, and other services providing care to indigent or needy populations;

c. Childcare facilities;

d. Grocery stores, supermarkets, food banks, farmers’ markets and vendors who sell food, convenience stores, and other businesses that generate more than one-third of their revenue from the sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet food, animal feed or supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other consumable food and drink products;

e. Farms, ranches, and other food cultivation, processing, or packaging operations;

f. Infrastructure operations including, but not limited to, public works construction, commercial and residential construction and maintenance, self-storage facilities, airport operations, public transportation, airlines, taxis, private transportation providers, transportation network companies, water, gas, electrical, oil drilling, oil refining, natural resources extraction or mining operations, nuclear material research and enrichment, those attendant to the repair and construction of roads and highways, gas

stations, solid waste collection and removal, trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, sewer, data and internet providers, data centers, technology support operations, and telecommunications systems;

g. Manufacturing operations involved in food processing, manufacturing agents, chemicals, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals, sanitary products, household paper products, microelectronics/semi-conductor, primary metals manufacturers, electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturers, and transportation equipment manufacturers;

h. Services necessary to maintain the safety and sanitation of residences or essential businesses including security services, towing services, custodial services, plumbers, electricians, and other skilled trades;

i. Veterinary and livestock services, animal shelters and facilities providing pet adoption, daycare, or boarding services;

j. Media services;

k. Automobile repair facilities, bike repair facilities, and retailers who generate the majority of their revenue from the sale of automobile or bike repair products;

l. Utilities, including their contractors, suppliers, and supportive operations, engaged in power generation, fuel supply and transmission, water and wastewater supply;

m. Hardware stores;

n. Laundromats and dry cleaner services;

o. Crematoriums, funeral homes, and cemeteries;

p. Banks, credit unions, insurance providers, licensed check cashing businesses, payroll services, brokerage services, and investment management firms;

q. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services;

r. Laboratories and defense and national security-related operations supporting the United States government, a contractor to the United States government, or any federal entity;

s. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, but only where necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities; and

t. Logistics and other businesses that store, transport, or deliver groceries, food, materials, goods, or services directly to residences, retailers, government institutions, or essential businesses.

(2) “Close-contact businesses” include barbershops, hair salons, tattoo parlors, nail salons, spas, massage therapy services, esthetician clinics, and tanning salons.

(3) “Food and drink establishments” include restaurants, breweries, wineries, distillers, cafes, coffee shops, or other similar establishments that offer food or drink. For purposes of this section, “breweries” are those businesses licensed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 60-6A-26.1; “distillers” are those businesses licensed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 60-6A-1; and “wineries” are those businesses licensed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 60-A-11.

(4) “Houses of worship” means any church, synagogue, mosque, or other gathering space where persons congregate to exercise their religious beliefs.

(5) “Large entertainment venues” mean any publicly or privately owned venue typically or actually used to host large audiences for the purposes of entertainment or amusement, including, but not limited to: convention centers, concert venues, movie theaters, performance venues, professional or semi-professional sports venues, racetracks, and theaters.

(6) “Recreational facilities” means any publicly or privately owned facility typically or actually used for recreational activities capable of bringing persons within close proximity of one another, including, but not limited to: aquariums, amusement parks, arcades, basketball courts, baseball fields, bowling alleys, botanical gardens, family entertainment centers, football fields, go-kart courses, golf courses, guided raft and balloon tours, ice-skating rinks, museums with interactive displays or exhibits, miniature golf courses, ski areas, soccer fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, trampoline parks, youth programs, and zoos.

(7) “Bars and clubs” means any business, other than those specifically defined as a “food and drink establishment,” that typically or actually generates more than half of its revenue from the sale of alcohol for on-premises consumption, as well as adult entertainment venues, nightclubs, and dance clubs, regardless of the source of their revenue.

(8) “Places of lodging” means hotels, motels, RV parks, and short-term vacation rentals.

(9) “Retail space” means any business that regularly sells goods or services directly to consumers or end-users at the business location and includes, but is not limited to, the following “essential businesses” identified in the categories above: (1)d, (1)k, (1)m, and (1)n.

(10) “Mass gathering” means any public gathering, private gathering, organized event, ceremony, parade, funeral, or any other grouping that brings together a specified number of individuals in a single room or connected space, confined outdoor space, or open outdoor space. “Mass gatherings” also includes coordinated events in which individuals gather in vehicles. “Mass gathering” does not include the presence of any number of individuals where those individuals regularly reside. “Mass gathering” does not include individuals who are public officials or public employees in the course and scope of their employment.

(11) “COVID-Safe Practices” (“CSP’s”) are those directives, guidelines, and recommendations for businesses and other public operations that are set out and memorialized in

the document titled “All Together New Mexico: COVID-Safe Practices for Individuals and Employers.” This document may be obtained at the following link: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-safe-practices/>.

## **THE “RED TO GREEN” FRAMEWORK**

**I DIRECT** that the State shall continue to reopen according to the following county-by-county framework:

### **SUMMARY**

This Order sets out the “Red to Green” framework, which includes four levels of operations that are based on a county’s ability to satisfy specified metrics: Turquoise Level, Green Level, Yellow Level, and Red Level. A county will remain at a given operating level so long as it continues to satisfy the specified metrics for that level. The Department of Health maintains the official map displaying each county’s current level at: <https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/public-dashboard.html>. The Department of Health updates this map every other Wednesday. If a county fails to meet the specified metrics for a given level, the county must begin operating at the lower level’s restrictions within 48 hours of the map’s update. If a county begins meeting the specified metrics for a less restrictive level, the county may begin operating at that level’s restrictions immediately upon the map’s update.

### **REOPENING LEVEL METRICS**

Counties shall be categorized according to one of the following levels:

- (1) Turquoise Level – Counties seeking to operate at this level must have satisfied the metrics required to operate at Green Level for the two most recent 14-day reporting periods.
- (2) Green Level – Counties seeking to operate at this level must satisfy both of the following metrics:
  - (a) A new COVID-19 case incidence rate of no greater than 8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants during the most recent 14-day period; AND
  - (b) An average percent of positive COVID-19 test results over the most recent 14-day period less than or equal to 5%.
- (3) Yellow Level – Counties seeking to operate at this level must meet either of the following metrics:
  - (a) A new COVID-19 case incidence rate of no greater than 8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants during the most recent 14-day period; OR
  - (b) An average percent of positive COVID-19 test results over the most recent 14-day period less than or equal to 5%.

- (4) Red Level – All other counties shall operate at the Red Level.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH LEVEL**

**Turquoise Level** – Turquoise Level counties are subject to the following requirements:

- (1) Except as provided in the following paragraph, all “mass gatherings” of more than one hundred fifty (150) individuals are prohibited. “Mass gatherings” in which individuals gather in vehicles are permitted so long as the gathering is limited to two hundred (200) vehicles.
- (2) All businesses, houses of worship, and other non-profit entities may operate subject to the following occupancy limits and restrictions:
  - a. All “essential businesses,” excluding those defined as a “retail space,” may operate without occupancy limitations but must limit operations to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions.
  - b. “Essential businesses” identified as a “retail space” may operate but may not exceed 75% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. Further, such “retail spaces” may operate up to 100% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - c. “Houses of worship” may hold religious services, indoors or outdoors, or provide services through audiovisual means, but may not exceed 75% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.
  - d. “Large entertainment venues” may operate up to 33% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. Further, “large entertainment venues” may operate up to 75% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - e. “Recreational facilities” may operate up to 50% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. Further, “recreational facilities” may operate up to 75% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - f. “Bars and clubs” may operate up to 33% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. Further, “bars and clubs” may operate up to 75% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises, where applicable. “Bars and clubs” shall comply with all other requirements applicable to “food and drink establishments.”
  - g. “Food and drink establishments” may not provide dine-in service, except those restaurants that have completed the NM Safe Certified training program. All “food and drink establishments” that have completed the NM Safe Certified offered at <https://nmsafecertified.org>, and also comply with all NM Safe Certified requirements, including, but not limited to: screening customers and staff for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entry, consenting to Department of Health spot-testing of symptomatic employees, requiring



dine-in customers to provide limited contact information for contact tracing purposes, and retaining contact tracing information for no less than three weeks may operate at 75% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. All “food and drink establishments,” regardless of compliance with the NM Safe Certified requirements, may provide service in outdoor seating areas up to 75% occupancy, where applicable. In all instances, tables must be spaced at least six feet apart, no more than six patrons may be seated at any single table, patrons must be seated in order to be served food or drink unless ordering food for carryout, and no bar or counter seating is permitted. “Food and drink establishments” may provide carryout service, or delivery service if otherwise permitted by law.

- h. “Places of lodging” which have completed the NM Safe Certified training offered at <https://nmsafecertified.org> may operate up to 100% of maximum occupancy. All other “places of lodging” shall not operate at more than 50% of maximum occupancy. Further, and notwithstanding any other provision herein, any home, apartment, condominium, or other similar space that is offered as a vacation rental may operate but may not exceed fifteen (15) guests. Healthcare providers who are engaged in the provision of care to New Mexico residents, individuals for extended stays as temporary housing, and individuals who are quarantining shall not be counted for purposes of determining maximum occupancy.
- i. Any entity not identified above may operate but may not exceed 75% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. Further, such entities may operate up to 100% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises.

**Green Level** – Green Level counties are subject to the following requirements:

- (1) Except as provided in the following paragraph, all “mass gatherings” of more than twenty (20) individuals are prohibited. “Mass gatherings” in which individuals gather in vehicles are permitted so long as the gathering is limited to one hundred twenty (120) vehicles, no food or drinks are sold at the gathering, and all individuals remain in their vehicles.
- (2) All businesses, houses of worship, and other non-profit entities may operate subject to the following occupancy limits and restrictions:
  - a. All “essential businesses,” excluding those defined as a “retail space,” may operate without occupancy limitations but must limit operations to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions.
  - b. “Essential businesses” identified as a “retail space” may operate but may not exceed 50% of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor or enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.
  - c. “Houses of worship” may hold religious services, indoors or outdoors, or provide services through audiovisual means, but may not exceed 50% of the

- maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.
- d. "Large entertainment venues" may operate up to 25% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. Further, "large entertainment venues" may operate up to 50% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - e. "Recreational facilities" may operate up to 25% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. Further, "recreational facilities" may operate up to 50% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises.
  - f. "Bars and clubs" may operate up to 25% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises, where applicable, but shall not permit patrons to enter any indoor portion of the premises except for the limited purpose of using the restroom or momentarily exiting/entering. Employees may occupy the indoor portion of the premises only to the extent necessary to operate the outdoor portion. "Bars and clubs" shall comply with all other requirements applicable to "food and drink establishments."
  - g. "Food and drink establishments" may not provide dine-in service, except those restaurants that have completed the NM Safe Certified training program. All "food and drink establishments" that have completed the NM Safe Certified training offered at <https://nmsafecertified.org>, and also comply with all NM Safe Certified requirements, including, but not limited to: screening customers and staff for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entry, consenting to Department of Health spot-testing of symptomatic employees, requiring dine-in customers to provide limited contact information for contact tracing purposes, and retaining contact tracing information for no less than three weeks may operate at 50% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. All "food and drink establishments," regardless of compliance with the NM Safe Certified requirements, may provide service in outdoor seating areas up to 75% occupancy, where applicable. In all instances, tables must be spaced at least six feet apart, no more than six patrons may be seated at any single table, patrons must be seated in order to be served food or drink unless ordering food for carryout, and no bar or counter seating is permitted. "Food and drink establishments" may provide carryout service, or delivery service if otherwise permitted by law.
  - h. "Places of lodging" which have completed the NM Safe Certified training offered at <https://nmsafecertified.org> may operate up to 75% of maximum occupancy. All other "places of lodging" shall not operate at more than 40% of maximum occupancy. Further, and notwithstanding any other provision herein, any home, apartment, condominium, or other similar space that is offered as a vacation rental may operate but may not exceed ten (10) guests. Healthcare providers who are engaged in the provision of care to New Mexico residents, individuals for extended stays as temporary housing, and

individuals who are quarantining shall not be counted for purposes of determining maximum occupancy.

- i. Any entity not identified above may operate but may not exceed 50% of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor or enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.

**Yellow Level** – Yellow Level counties are subject to the following requirements:

- (1) Except as provided in the following paragraph, all “mass gatherings” of more than ten (10) individuals are prohibited. “Mass gatherings” in which individuals gather in vehicles are permitted so long as the gathering is limited to eighty (80) vehicles, no food or drinks are sold at the gathering, and all individuals remain in their vehicles.
- (2) All businesses, houses of worship, and other non-profit entities may operate subject to the following occupancy limits and restrictions:
  - a. All “essential businesses,” excluding those defined as a “retail space,” may operate but must limit operations to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions.
  - b. “Essential businesses” identified as a “retail space” may operate but may not exceed 33% of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor or enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.
  - c. “Houses of worship” may hold religious services, indoors or outdoors, or provide services through audiovisual means, but may not exceed 33% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.
  - d. “Large entertainment venues” may operate up to 25% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises but shall not permit patrons to enter any indoor portion of the venue except for the limited purpose of using the restroom or momentarily exiting/entering. Employees may occupy the indoor portion of the facility only to the extent necessary to operate the outdoor portion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, “large entertainment venues” may operate up to 25% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department, for the limited purposes of recording and broadcasting entertainment, but shall in no event permit any live, in-person audience.
  - e. “Recreational facilities” may operate up to 33% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises but shall not permit patrons to enter any indoor portion of the facility except for the limited purpose of using the restroom or momentarily exiting/entering. Employees may occupy the indoor portion of the facility only to the extent necessary to operate the outdoor portion.
  - f. “Bars and clubs” may not operate.
  - g. “Food and drink establishments” may not provide dine-in service unless they complete the NM Safe Certified training offered at <https://nmsafecertified.org>, as well as comply with all NM Safe Certified requirements, including, but not limited to: screening customers and staff

for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entry, consenting to Department of Health spot-testing of symptomatic employees, requiring dine-in customers to provide limited contact information for contact tracing purposes, and retaining contact tracing information for no less than three weeks. Those “food and drink establishments” that complete the NM Safe Certified training and comply with all attendant requirements mandated by that program may provide dine-in services but may not exceed more than 33% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department. All “food and drink establishments,” regardless of compliance with the NM Safe Certified requirements, may provide service in outdoor seating areas up to 75% occupancy, where applicable. In all instances, tables must be spaced at least six feet apart, no more than six patrons may be seated at any single table, patrons must be seated in order to be served food or drink unless ordering food for carryout, and no bar or counter seating is permitted. Any “food and drink establishment” that is permitted to serve alcohol must close for in-person service by 10:00 p.m. and must remain closed until at least 4:00 a.m. but may continue to provide delivery service so long as no customers are permitted on the premises. “Food and drink establishments” may provide carryout service, or delivery service if otherwise permitted by law.

- h. “Places of lodging” which have completed the NM Safe Certified training offered at <https://nmsafecertified.org> may operate up to 60% of maximum occupancy. All other “places of lodging” shall not operate at more than 33% of maximum occupancy. Further, and notwithstanding any other provision herein, any home, apartment, condominium, or other similar space that is offered as a vacation rental may operate but may not exceed five (5) guests. Healthcare providers who are engaged in the provision of care to New Mexico residents, individuals for extended stays as temporary housing, and individuals who are quarantining shall not be counted for purposes of determining maximum occupancy.
- i. “Close-contact businesses” may operate but may not exceed the lesser of 33% of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor or enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department, or twenty (20) customers inside the building at any given time.
- j. Any entity not identified above may operate but may not exceed 33% of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor or enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.

**Red Level** – Red Level counties are subject to the following requirements:

- (1) Except as provided in the following paragraph, all “mass gatherings” of more than five (5) individuals are prohibited. “Mass gatherings” in which individuals gather in vehicles are permitted so long as the gathering is limited to forty (40) vehicles, no food or drinks are sold at the gathering, and all individuals remain in their vehicles.

- (2) All businesses, houses of worship, and other non-profit entities may operate subject to the following occupancy limits and restrictions:
- a. All “essential businesses,” excluding those defined as a “retail space,” may operate but must limit operations to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions.
  - b. “Essential businesses” identified as a “retail space” may operate but may not exceed 25% of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor or enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.
  - c. “Houses of worship” may hold religious services, indoors or outdoors, or provide services through audiovisual means, but may not exceed 25% of the maximum occupancy of any enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.
  - d. “Large entertainment venues” may not operate.
  - e. “Recreational facilities” may operate up to 25% capacity of any outdoor space on the premises but shall not permit patrons to enter any indoor portion of the facility except for the limited purpose of using the restroom or momentarily exiting/entering. Employees may occupy the indoor portion of the facility only to the extent necessary to operate the outdoor portion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, amusement parks may not operate.
  - f. “Bars and clubs” may not operate.
  - g. “Food and drink establishments” may provide service in outdoor seating areas up to 25% occupancy, where applicable, but shall not permit patrons to enter any indoor portion of the premises except for the limited purpose of using the restroom or momentarily exiting/entering. Employees may occupy the indoor portion of the premises only to the extent necessary to operate the outdoor portion. Tables must be spaced at least six feet apart, no more than six patrons may be seated at any single table, patrons must be seated in order to be served food or drink unless ordering food for carryout, and no bar or counter seating is permitted. “Food and drink establishments” may provide carryout service, or delivery service if otherwise permitted by law. Any “food and drink establishment” that is permitted to serve alcohol must close for in-person service by 9:00 p.m. and must remain closed until at least 4:00 a.m. but may continue to provide delivery service so long as no customers are permitted on the premises.
  - h. “Places of lodging” which have completed the NM Safe Certified training offered at <https://nmsafecertified.org> may operate up to 40% of maximum occupancy. All other “places of lodging” shall not operate at more than 25% of maximum occupancy. Further, and notwithstanding any other provision herein, any home, apartment, condominium, or other similar space that is offered as a vacation rental may operate but may not exceed five (5) guests. Healthcare providers who are engaged in the provision of care to New Mexico residents, individuals for extended stays as temporary housing, and individuals who are quarantining shall not be counted for purposes of determining maximum occupancy.

- i. “Close-contact businesses” may operate but may not exceed 25% of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor or enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department, or ten (10) customers inside the building at any given time.
- j. Any entity not identified above may operate but may not exceed 25% of the maximum occupancy of any outdoor or enclosed space on the premises, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department.

## **BASELINE DIRECTIVES**

Regardless of a county’s level, **I DIRECT** that the following baseline directives apply at all times and in all instances:

(1) Unless a healthcare provider instructs otherwise, all individuals shall wear a mask or multilayer cloth face covering in public settings except when eating or drinking. Masks with vents do not satisfy this requirement. “Retail spaces” may not allow a person who is without a mask or multilayer cloth face covering to enter the premises except where that person is in possession of a written exemption from a healthcare provider.

(2) In order to minimize the shortage of health care supplies and other necessary goods, “retail spaces” shall limit the sale of medications, durable medical equipment, baby formula, diapers, sanitary care products, and hygiene products to three items per individual.

(3) Any “food and drink establishment,” “close-contact business,” “place of lodging,” “retail space,” or other business (including “essential businesses” other than those which meet the definition of a healthcare operation, utility, or indigent care services) in which members of the public regularly visit must immediately close for a period of fourteen (14) days following the occurrence of four (4) or more rapid responses within a fourteen (14) day period. For purposes of this directive, rapid responses will be counted on a rolling basis. Notwithstanding this provision, an “essential business” may be permitted to continue operating if the Department of Health, after consultation with the New Mexico Environment Department, determines that the business is a necessary provider of goods or services within the community in light of geographic considerations. Further, “essential businesses” that test each employee every two weeks and regularly provide contact tracing data to the Environment Department shall not be subject to closure under this provision.

(4) All businesses, houses of worship, and other non-profit entities must adhere to the pertinent CSP’s. In the event the pertinent CSP’s specify a reduced occupancy or capacity limit, the CSP’s limit shall control.

(5) Private educational institutions serving children and young adults from pre-Kindergarten through 12th Grade, including homeschools serving children who are not household members, shall adhere to the face covering and other COVID-Safe Practices requirements for in-person instruction described in the document “Reentry Guidance” published by New Mexico’s Public Education Department on June 20, 2020 and as updated from time to time thereafter, and shall operate with a maximum occupancy of 50% of any individual enclosed indoor space, such as

any classroom, as determined by the relevant fire marshal or fire department, with the occupancy restriction herein to govern in the event of any discrepancy with the "Reentry Guidance." Private schools shall report to the New Mexico Public Education Department all cases of COVID-19-positive students, staff, contractors and volunteers associated with the school within four hours of the school being notified of the positive case, pursuant to the procedures in the current COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Elementary Schools. Private schools must immediately close for a period of fourteen (14) days following the last occurrence of four (4) or more rapid responses within a fourteen (14) day period. Private schools also are subject to inclusion on the New Mexico Environment Department's watchlist and closure list.

(6) State parks shall be open to camping with reservations and day-use only. Event facilities at state parks shall remain closed. The State Parks Division is directed to extend the use of annual camping passes that were purchased after March 2019 for a period determined by the State Parks Division related to the original expiration date due to the closure of state parks to camping.

(7) State museums may operate subject to the occupancy level and restrictions applicable to comparable private museums located in their respective counties.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** as follows:

(1) This Order shall be broadly disseminated in English, Spanish and other appropriate languages to the citizens of the State of New Mexico.

(2) This Order declaring restrictions based upon the existence of a condition of public health importance shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements set forth in the Public Health Act.

(3) Nothing in this Order is intended to restrain or preempt local authorities from enacting more stringent restrictions than those required by the Order.

(4) This Order shall take effect February 24, 2021 and remain in effect through March 24, 2021.


(5) The New Mexico Department of Health, the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the New Mexico Environment Department, and all other State departments and agencies are authorized to take all appropriate steps to ensure compliance with this Order.

(6) Any and all State officials authorized by the Department of Health may enforce this Order by issuing a citation of violation, which may result in civil administrative penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation under NMSA 1978, Section 12-10A-19.

**I FURTHER ADVISE the public to take the following preventive precautions:**

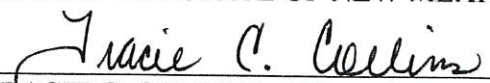
- **New Mexico citizens should stay at home and undertake only those outings absolutely necessary for their health, safety, or welfare.**
- Retailers should take appropriate action consistent with this order to reduce hoarding and ensure that all New Mexicans can purchase necessary goods.
- Avoid crowds.
- Avoid all non-essential travel including plane trips and cruise ships.

ATTEST:

  
MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

  
TRACIE C. COLLINS, M.D.  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

