



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 18, 2021

### **Department of Health Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccine Access for All New Mexicans**

*Bringing vaccine to the African-American community via important events this weekend*

SANTA FE -- Following Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's announcement that New Mexico has reached 60% of New Mexicans with completed vaccination series, the state will continue to make COVID-19 vaccine widely accessible - including through a series of events this weekend.

These events will include COVID-19 vaccination booths, prize wheels, and radio remotes from members of the community.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging, and infections disproportionately impacted communities of color, including African-Americans. We have a chance to protect ourselves and our loved ones by getting vaccinated." said DOH Secretary Dr. Tracie Collins.

View Dr. Collins' [video statement](#) on Juneteenth.

Approximately 38 percent of the African-American community in New Mexico have completed their vaccination series.

"The Juneteenth theme this year is 'To a Higher Ground', which means to me we keep climbing from the solid foundation that was laid by our ancestors. African-Americans have always contributed to the shaping and development of this country through our gifts, talents and numerous sacrifices. As a veteran, I want to recognize and salute those who served our nation and state during that pivotal time in our history through military service...we are forever grateful and we will never forget," said Department of Veterans Services Secretary Sonya Smith.

View Secretary Smith's [video statement](#) on Juneteenth.

"This weekend as we celebrate Juneteenth, we celebrate our freedoms and the resilience of our community. We need to make sure to do something equally as important for our communities, including making sure we are protecting ourselves and each other from this COVID-19 pandemic. I want to encourage you to understand what is the truth about these vaccines and what is a myth, and get out

there and decide for yourself what is the right choice to make.” said Executive Director of the Office of African American Affairs, Amy Whitfield.

View Director Whitfield’s [video statement](#) on Juneteenth.

“As a Black American and native Texan, for me Juneteenth represents both a joyous celebration of human freedom and a stark reminder that these freedoms were necessitated by unspeakable brutality, that they were hard won over centuries and across battlefields, and that laws and proclamations by themselves are not enough to guarantee our freedoms. As citizens, I hope we can collectively take every June 19th to reflect on our responsibility to constantly advocate for universal human freedoms, equality, and solidarity,” said Public Education Department Secretary Ryan Stewart.

Below is a list of weekend events that will include easy access to vaccinations and on-site incentives:

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Vaccination Clinic Hours</b>
NMDOH	ABQ Civic Plaza 1 Civic Plaza Albuquerque, NM	June 18, 2021	4:00pm-7:30pm
NMDOH	ABQ Civic Plaza 1 Civic Plaza Albuquerque, NM	June 19, 2021	12:00pm-7:30pm
NMDOH	Santa Fe Plaza 63 Lincoln Ave Santa Fe, NM	June 19, 2021	4:30pm-6:00pm
NMDOH	NMSU Presley Askew Ball Field 1815 Wells Ave Las Cruces, NM	June 19, 2021	6:00pm-8:00pm
NMDOH	ABQ Civic Plaza 1 Civic Plaza Albuquerque, NM	June 20, 2021	3:00pm-7:00pm
Covenant Health	Booker T. Washington Park 1200 Humble Street Hobbs, NM	June 23, 2021	9:00am-12:00pm

New Mexicans who have received at least one COVID-19 vaccination may opt in to the Vax 2 the Max sweepstakes at [vax2themaxNM.org](http://vax2themaxNM.org). To be eligible for the \$5 million grand prize - to be awarded in early August - New Mexicans must have completed their vaccination series. New Mexicans can schedule their shots at [vaccineNM.org](http://vaccineNM.org).

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**NMDOH**

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The Department of Health works to promote health and wellness, improve health outcomes, and deliver services to all New Mexicans. As New Mexico's largest state agency, DOH offers public health services in all 33 counties and collaborates with 23 Native American tribes, Pueblos and nations.