



Office of the Governor

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nora Meyers Sackett
Press Secretary, Office of the Governor
nora.sackett@state.nm.us
(505) 690-7313

July 29, 2021

Governor to implement vaccination policy for state government employees

*Lujan Grisham urges other government agencies, private sector
to follow suit*

SANTA FE – In light of the continued spread of COVID-19 and enhanced viral risk driven by vaccine hesitancy and resistance, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Thursday signed an executive order requiring all state employees to either be fully vaccinated or otherwise submit to regular COVID-19 testing.

Under the order, state employees who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 shall be required to demonstrate a negative COVID-19 test at least once every two weeks.

State employees who are not fully vaccinated, under the order, must wear a facemask when indoors during the course and scope of their employment – with minor exceptions for eating and drinking. (Pursuant to updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is recommended vaccinated individuals resume wearing facemasks indoors as well.)

Employees who do not comply may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination, in accordance with applicable law.

The order takes effect Monday, Aug. 2.

The governor's action follows a similar requirement implemented by the state of California. President Joe Biden was reportedly scheduled to announce on Thursday a vaccinate-or-test policy for civilian federal workers, as well.

The governor is evaluating whether to mandate vaccinations as a condition of employment in certain high-risk settings under her executive authority.

“Right now, it’s very simple: Get a vaccine, or else you will be tested,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. “There will be no quarter for this virus within state government offices. I will not tolerate any unnecessary risk within the workforce under my authority. And I strongly

encourage other New Mexico government agencies and private sector employers to consider doing the same.

“I have absolutely zero appetite for another unnecessary surge of infections, hospitalizations and death,” the governor added. “This isn’t a debate. The vaccines are safe, and they work. Misinformation to the contrary will lead to illness and death – not to mention full hospitals and economic disruption.

“If you are eligible to be vaccinated and choosing not to, you are giving the virus an opportunity to mutate and spread. Please do not jeopardize anyone’s life, anyone’s livelihood or our state’s economic recovery. Get vaccinated.”

New Mexicans may schedule their vaccinations at [VaccineNM.org](https://www.vaccineNM.org).

The order is attached to this news release.

###



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-045

REQUIRING STATE EMPLOYEES TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization announced the emergence of a novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) that had not previously circulated in humans, but has been found to have adapted to humans such that it is contagious and easily spread from one person to another and one country to another;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been confirmed in New Mexico since March 11, 2020, when the New Mexico Department of Health confirmed the first cases of individuals infected with COVID-19 in New Mexico and additional cases have been confirmed each day since then;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, because of the spread of COVID-19, I issued Executive Order 2020-004 declaring that a Public Health Emergency exists in New Mexico under the Public Health Emergency Response Act, and invoked my authority under the All Hazards Emergency Management Act;

WHEREAS, I have renewed the declaration of a Public Health Emergency through August 16, 2021;

WHEREAS, the currently available COVID-19 vaccines are a safe and effective way of preventing serious illness or death;

WHEREAS, the refusal to receive the COVID-19 vaccine not only endangers the individual but the entire community, and further jeopardizes the progress the State has made against the pandemic by allowing the virus to transmit more freely and mutate into more transmissible or deadly variants;

WHEREAS, one such highly-transmissible variant, B.1.617.2, commonly known as the Delta variant, now accounts for the majority of new infections;

WHEREAS, the State has recorded a significant increase in new COVID-19 cases in recent weeks, with cases expected to rise even further in the Fall and Winter months;

WHEREAS, the further spread of COVID-19 in the State of New Mexico poses a threat to the health, safety, and wellbeing of all New Mexicans;

WHEREAS, State employees who become ill cannot adequately perform their duties, which disrupts the orderly operation of State government; and

WHEREAS, regular testing, masks, and social-distancing remain some of the most effective ways to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution, the All Hazards Emergency Management Act, and the laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. State employees shall comply with the provisions regarding the use of masks contained in the operative Public Health Order issued by the Secretary of the Department of Health during the course and scope of their employment.

2. State employees who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and willing and able to provide adequate proof of such vaccination shall provide adequate proof that the employee has tested negative for COVID-19 within the past seven (7) days every two weeks.

3. Employees who refuse to abide by the above requirements may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, in accordance with applicable law.

4. State agencies shall ensure, consistent with law, that any documentation related to vaccination status or test results are not disclosed to individuals other than those necessary to ensure compliance with this Order.

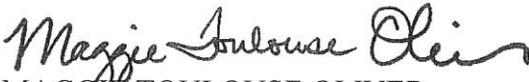
5. The New Mexico State Personnel Office shall provide agencies with guidance on the full implementation and administration this Order.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, policies, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

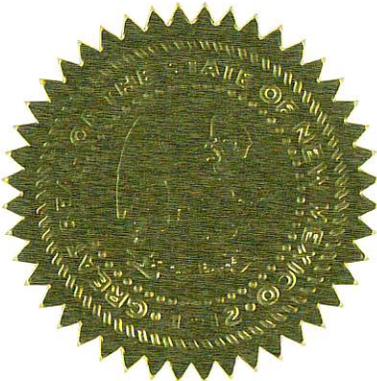
2. This Order shall take effect at 8:00 a.m. on August 2, 2021, and shall remain in effect until renewed, modified, or rescinded.

ATTEST:


MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 29TH DAY OF JULY 2021

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




MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR