



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Michael R. Sandoval, *Cabinet Secretary*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Mexico travel restrictions in effect

SANTA FE – The state of New Mexico is under a mandatory health advisory issued by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

Anyone crossing a border into the state must adhere to the New Mexico public health travel restrictions.

Be aware: Businesses and law enforcement agencies are strictly enforcing the following restrictions for in and out of state travelers.

Below you will find some frequently asked questions and answers.

Are the borders closed in New Mexico?

No. The surrounding borders are not closed. State roads remain open.

Will travelers with out of state plates be stopped by law enforcement or turned away at the borders?

No. Unless law enforcement has reason to believe you are breaking the law or not adhering to the health advisory, you will not be stopped or forced to leave the state.

Does everyone in New Mexico have to wear a mask?

Yes. Mask-wearing is mandatory in public for all individuals over the age of two, except when eating or drinking. Masks are required for all activities indoor or outdoor. This includes gyms, malls, grocery stores, private businesses, public parks, golf courses, shooting ranges, walking spaces and when sitting down at restaurants prior to being served. You do not have to wear a mask inside your vehicle.

Are restaurants open?

Yes! Indoor seating at a limited capacity is allowed inside restaurants. Patio, pick-up and curbside service are available as well time.

Is there a punishment if I choose not to wear a mask?

Yes. If caught without a mask in public, you are subject to a \$100 fine.

What if I live in New Mexico and I want to travel out of state? Do I have to self-quarantine when I return?

The mandatory health advisory is very clear. If you cross over the borders of New Mexico, you must self-quarantine for 14 days when you return home.

Are there any exceptions to the quarantine order?

Yes. The mandatory self-quarantine, as before, does not apply to:

- Persons employed by airlines
- Persons performing public safety or public health functions
- Military personnel and their dependents
- Federal employees
- Persons employed by a federal agency or national defense contractor
- Emergency first responders and health care workers
- Persons arriving in the state pursuant to a court order
- Persons who are employed or contracted by an essential business, as defined in the state's operative emergency public health order, who are traveling into New Mexico to conduct business activities

Those arriving in the state pursuant to a court order do not have to quarantine for 14 days or for the duration of their time in the state, whichever is shorter, though all should follow COVID-safe best practices: Wear a face-covering in public and keep physical distance from others and limit travel outside of the home or place of lodging to only the essentials.

Can I visit state parks in New Mexico if I live out of state?

No. State parks are closed to out of state visitors at this time. You will not be permitted into a state park if cannot show proof of residency. For those who live in New Mexico, you can only visit state parks during the day. Camping overnight is not allowed.

Can out of state visitors come into New Mexico for a day hike?

Not right now. New Mexico enjoys visitors but now is not a good time to visit. Unless you plan to quarantine for 14 days after you arrive.

What if I take my family camping in a different state and we spend our time outdoors, away from other people, adhering to social distancing? Do we all have to self-quarantine when we return?

Yes. Even if you spend time outdoors, wearing masks and social distancing in another state, you must self-quarantine when you return to New Mexico for 14 days.

The executive order underlines that state residents leaving New Mexico for vacation or other leisure activities must quarantine upon returning to the state and makes clear that those residents quarantining after vacation or other leisure activities are not eligible for paid sick leave pursuant to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Non-compliant individuals are subject to involuntary quarantine by the New Mexico Department of Health under the Public Health Emergency Response Act.

Do out of state visitors have to self-quarantine even if they own a home in New Mexico?

Yes. If visitors or part-time residents plan to stay in New Mexico longer than two weeks for any reason, you must self-quarantine for the first 14 days when coming in from another state.

If you are staying in New Mexico for fewer than two weeks, you also must self-quarantine for the duration of your stay or up to 14 days, whichever is shorter. (For example, if you plan to stay at a hotel for two nights before leaving the state, you must self-quarantine for the duration of your stay.)

Individuals who are quarantined upon arrival into the state may leave the residence or place of lodging in which they are self-quarantining only for the purposes of medical care.

Self-quarantining individuals should not allow others into the residence or place of lodging in which they are quarantined except for those providing medical care, emergency response or other individuals designated by the Department of Health. Family or household members may visit a quarantined person, but those visitors must then self-quarantine themselves for a period of no less than 14 days.

Does that apply to people in RV's as well?

Yes. Travelers must self-quarantine wherever they are staying.

Are there any exceptions to the quarantine?

- Yes. The mandatory self-quarantine does not apply to New Mexico residents who have left the state to obtain medical care.
- Or to residents who have left the state for less than 24 hours for matters attendant to parenting responsibilities.

What if travelers are simply passing through New Mexico to get to another destination in a different state?

This is not a time to shop for souvenirs, visit state parks or sightsee. Please recognize that if you are traveling amid a global pandemic you are bringing the risk of a highly contagious and lethal virus with you and taking it with you as you go. You must wear a face-covering if you are in public while in the state. Please limit your activities to only the essentials. Otherwise you are allowed to travel through the state.

What if I'm a trucker and have to make deliveries in New Mexico?

Most trucking services fall under the logistical transporting functions incorporated in the essential businesses of the state's operative emergency public health order and are exempt from the quarantine requirement. But all visitors in the state are still required to wear face-coverings and follow COVID-safe best practices.

The NMDOT sincerely appreciates your cooperation.

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Mobility for everyone

Marisa Maez, Communications Director | Marisa.Maez@state.nm.us | 505 469 8243