

New Mexico Agriculture Industry Information Related to COVID-19

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

<https://www.newmexico.gov>

Coronavirus Health Hotline: 1-855-600-3453

New Mexico Department of Health COVID-19: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>

Coronavirus Information (Non-Health) Hotline: 1-833-551-0518

New Mexico Crisis and Access Line (mental health): 1-855-NMCRISIS (662-7474)

<https://www.nmcrisisline.com>

Assistance Resources:

View the agriculture industry COVID-19 Assistance Resources page for a list of numerous programs: <https://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/assistance-programs/>

STATE OF NEW MEXICO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER

For the most recent public health order, go to <https://cv.nmhealth.org/> and select “Public Health Orders” from the top navigation menu bar.

According to the Nov. 13, 2020 Public Health Order, “essential businesses” may remain open, provided they minimize their operations and staff to the greatest extent possible. Further, all “essential businesses” shall comply with the pertinent “COVID-Safe Practices (CSPs)” section(s) of the [“All Together New Mexico: COVID-Safe Practices for Individuals and Employers”](#) and any identified occupancy restrictions.

Below is a list of the agriculture-related “essential businesses” per the public health order:

- Grocery stores, supermarkets, food banks, farmers’ markets and vendors who sell food, convenience stores, and other businesses that generate the majority 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 household products;
- Farms, ranches, and other food cultivation, processing, or packaging operations;
- 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;
- 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;
- Utilities, including their contractors, suppliers, and supportive operations, engaged in power generation, fuel supply and transmission, water and wastewater supply;
- Banks, credit unions, insurance providers, payroll services, brokerage services, and investment management firms;
- Logistics and other businesses that store, transport, or deliver groceries, food, materials, goods or services directly to residences, retailers, government institutions, or essential businesses.

Please refer to the most recent public health order at the link above to read the order in its entirety.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COVID-SAFE PRACTICES

View or download the most recent industry-specific COVID-Safe Practices document for employers at: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-safe-practices/>

NM SAFE CERTIFIED

Businesses may get certified at <https://nmsafecertified.org/get-certified/>

NM Safe Certified provides businesses free on-demand virtual COVID-Safe Practices trainings to help ensure all New Mexicans remain safe as the state reopens for business and recreation. NM Safe Certified provides a recognizable brand across all industries to assist in building consumer confidence.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cdcresponse/about-COVID-19.html>

New Mexico Department of Health COVID-19: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>

Just like with many other illnesses, the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 is to avoid exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. This requires taking steps to protect yourself and to protect others:

- Clean your hands often and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home except for essential purposes and/or to seek healthcare.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with other people who are sick.
- Practice social distancing by putting at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and other people.
- Wear a mask or cloth face covering. In New Mexico, everyone is required to wear a face covering when in public except when drinking, eating, or under medical instruction. New Mexico now requires all persons to wear a mask while exercising whether indoor or outdoor. Masks and cloth face coverings may prevent people who do not know they have the virus from transmitting it to others. Wearing a mask is a sign of respect for other people and demonstrates your desire not to be a source of infection for them, just as you would like for them to be looking out to protect you.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Locate your county extension office: <https://aces.nmsu.edu/county/>

Visit the Extension website for more resources: <https://extension.nmsu.edu/>

- Preparing for the unexpected. Have enough supplies on hand for 14-day quarantine. Among the items to stock up on are:
 - Dry goods such as rice, pasta, beans, oats and ready-to-eat cereals.
 - Canned foods that contain liquid, such as tomatoes, beans and tuna. The excess liquid can be used to cook the dried goods, if necessary.
 - Canned fruits.
 - Canned meats.
 - Comfort foods such as chocolate, coffee, ice cream and other foods that bring you pleasure. These foods can help with positive mental health and morale during a home quarantine.
 - Pet food.

- Household hygienic products such as hand soap, dishwashing liquid, laundry soap, hand sanitizer (made with at least 60 percent alcohol), toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, feminine care products and diapers.
 - Prescription medications (if possible, get a 30-day supply).
 - Other medical supplies like contact lenses and solution, hearing aid batteries, and over-the-counter medications such as pain relievers and cough and cold medicines.
 - Entertainment items such as books, board games, card games, puzzles and movies.
- Please contact your county Extension office for any distance learning offered.

BUSINESSES/EMPLOYERS

New Mexico Economic Development Department: <https://gonm.biz/about-us/covid-19-response/>
U. S. Small Business Administration: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

- Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Assistance contact info:
 - SBA New Mexico District Office: www.sba.gov/offices/district/nm/albuquerque
 - District Office Phone: 505-248-8225
 - Phone: 1-800-659-2955 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-877-8339)
 - Email: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

EMPLOYEES

New Mexico Workforce Solutions: www.jobs.state.nm.us

Apply for unemployment benefits anytime online or Monday–Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Toll Free: 1-877-664-6984

- Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has declared a state public health emergency as a result of COVID-19. Certain workers may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

PRODUCE SAFETY

U.S. Food & Drug Administration: <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/food-and-COVID-19.html>

- Per the CDC, currently there is no evidence to suggest that handling food or consuming food is associated with COVID-19.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

www.nmda.nmsu.edu, nmagsec@nmda.nmsu.edu or 575-646-3007

- The Las Cruces NMDA main building is closed per New Mexico State University policy; however, our staff remains committed and is available as needed for necessary business operations including, but not limited to, licensing, regulation, sampling on a complaint basis and functions related to our metrology lab, chemistry lab, petroleum lab and seed lab. If you have urgent business with NMDA, please contact us at the number or email above.
- NMDA's Albuquerque District Office and the Peanut Grading Station in Portales are closed to the public, however, necessary services at those facilities will continue. The public should call or email during this time:
 - Albuquerque District Office: 505-361-2840 or jconlogue@nmda.nmsu.edu
 - Peanut Grading Station: 575-356-8393 or kberry@nmda.nmsu.edu

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTICS SERVICES (NMDA)

www.nmda.nmsu.edu, ddvds@nmda.nmsu.edu or 505-383-9299

- Veterinary Diagnostic Services in Albuquerque will continue to operate Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Our team assures you that the NMDA Veterinary Diagnostic Services Lab will maintain normal diagnostic operations for the foreseeable future.
- We limited visitor traffic in the building, however, this will not affect your ability to drop off diagnostic samples.
- Obviously, this is a dynamic situation and things could change, but for now we will continue to provide the best possible diagnostic services to our clients.

NEW MEXICO LIVESTOCK BOARD

<https://www.nmlbonline.com/> or 505-841-6161

- Due to the governor declaring a State of New Mexico Public Health Emergency, the office of the New Mexico Livestock Board is taking proactive measures. All in-person services and transactions at the Albuquerque office are suspended indefinitely. Exceptions to this closure can be made with an appointment by calling the office Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The following services can be performed on the New Mexico Livestock Board website:
 - Review updates on animal health.
 - Entry permit information and requirements.
 - Brand renewals.
 - Brand searches.
 - Print brand applications and submit by mail.
 - Print brand transfer forms and submit by mail.
 - Find statutes and rules related to livestock in New Mexico.
- Although taking precautions, New Mexico Livestock Board inspectors continue business as usual working in the field and at sale barns.

LIVESTOCK MARKETS

Livestock Marketing Association: <http://lmaweb.com/covid-19/>

Kristen Parman (816-645-5916; kparman@lmaweb.com);

Chelsea Good (816-305-9540; cgood@lmaweb.com)

- Livestock sales continue in New Mexico, but COVID-Safe Practices must be followed: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-safe-practices/>.

FARMERS MARKETS

<https://farmersmarketsnm.org/>

dmiller@FarmersMarketsNM.org; Toll Free: 888-983-4400; Santa Fe: 505-983-4010

- Per the State of New Mexico Public Health Emergency Order, farmers' markets are essential businesses and may remain open, but COVID-Safe Practices must be followed. View COVID-Safe Practices specific to farmers' markets at <https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-safe-practices/>.

NEW MEXICO BEEF COUNCIL

<https://www.nmbeef.com/>

- Dina Chacon-Reitzel: office 505-841-9407, cell 505-263-0909, DinaReitzel@nmbeef.com, nmbeef@nmbeef.com

The New Mexico Beef Council office is open; however, the doors are locked. Please call one of the phone numbers listed above if you need to reach someone at the beef council.

OTHER HELPFUL LINKS

- Environmental Protection Agency (includes list of disinfectants for use against COVID-19): <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>
- Federal government: <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>
- FEMA Coronavirus Rumor Control: <https://www.fema.gov/Coronavirus-Rumor-Control>
- New Mexico Environment Department: <https://www.env.nm.gov/>
- New Mexico Government: <https://www.newmexico.gov/>
- Southwest Border Food Protection and Emergency Preparedness Center: <https://aces.nmsu.edu/preparedness/>
- United States Department of Agriculture: <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

For additional copies of this document,
contact Kristie Garcia at the New Mexico Department of Agriculture
at krgarcia@nmda.nmsu.edu or 575-339-5011.