

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2021

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## Did You Know...

That 91% of Americans eat turkey on Thanksgiving and about 280 million Turkeys are sold annually for Thanksgiving about 7 billion pounds of Turkey.

## Where is Bear Sun?



Bearsun completed his journey from Los Angeles to New York City on Sunday, November 14, 2021. A large crowd in Times Square greeted him as he finished. His next adventure will be running from Florida to Seattle, WA starting on January 1, 2022.

## Events:

### November: Nítch'its'ósí - "Slender Winds"

- November 25: Thanksgiving
- November 26: Navajo Nation Family Day

### December: Nítch'itsoh - "Big Winds"

- December 21: Winter Solstice
- December 24: Christmas Eve
- December 25: Christmas
- December 26: Kwaanza
- December 31: New Year's Eve

## The National Recycling Coalition 2021 Awards Recipient Outstanding Community Government Program Bááháálí-Chichiltah Regional Solid Waste Collection Center



On Thursday, November 4, 2021, The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) honored their national recycling awards recipients at their Virtual 2021 Annual National Recycling Congress. The awards were digitally presented to the winners.

The annual awards program is designed to honor and recognize outstanding individuals, programs, and organizations around the country, both for their achievements, and to serve as a model and a resource for learning for NRC members. Award categories recognize outstanding programs in for-profit businesses, higher education, non-profit organizations, recycling organizations, diversion innovation, and community / governmental programs, as well as awards for outstanding emerging leader and lifetime achievement. The NRC will be posting information on all winners on the NRC's website.

NRC's Awards Committee Chair, Lisa Skumatz, commented on the process expressing the views of fellow committee members, "We received over 80 nominations this year for the awards. Picking just one winner in each category was difficult, but also rewarding to see the

great efforts and programs around the country for recycling and organics diversion.” Dr. Skumatz noted that this year’s winners varied in size from a small collection center in the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, to large organizations like UCLA in California, and from all regions of the country. “We have programs refurbishing laptops, achieving up to 90% diversion rates, and saving food and getting it back to those who need it in their community! Many of these programs are still making huge strides in this new world of virtual outreach.”



**Outstanding Community or Government Program: For a program showing innovation, progress, and success as a model for other public programs.**

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**Bááháálí-Chichiltah Regional Solid Waste Collection Center**

Gloria Skeet and Roselyn John have been instrumental in providing access to recycling, and currently run one of only two recycling programs on the Navajo Nation. To address the trash and illegal dumping issues, Skeet and John came together in 2009 to open the Bááháálí-Chichiltah Regional Solid Waste Collection Center. At the station’s first audit, Skeet and John were shocked to discover that 79% of what people were throwing away was recyclable. That’s when they decided to go into the recycling business and now offer cardboard, paper, and plastic recycling to its residents for free! The collaboratively-run transfer station and recycling center has been recognized for its cleanliness and efficiency from users and federal inspectors alike. The two women have been working hard to keep prices affordable for residents, while seeking funding and grants to subsidize the transfer station and recycling center. They are working towards a sustainable solution for the transfer station that residents have come to depend on. Accepted by Gloria Skeet, Bááháálí Chapter Manager, and Roselyn John Chichiltah Chapter Community Services Coordinator. To Read Full Press Release :<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DiXBu892pSxMwz17Yzc51m-vPxNq809p/view?usp=sharing>



Navajo Times | Sharon Chischilly  
Gloria M. Skeet, chapter manager at Bááháálí Chapter, helped to re-establish the Bááháálí-Chichiltah Regional Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Center after McKinley County stopped operating it in 2005.

# Heavy Equipment Updates

Heavy Equipment Policies and Procedures now available on [nndcd.org](http://nndcd.org) website and you can click--> [HERE](#)

## November Deliveries

November 4 - Smith Lake - Heavy Duty Truck, trailer & water tank

November 9 - Mexican Springs - Water Truck



November 2021

# Teec Nos Pos North Phase III Sihasin Year 2 Powerline



**Teec Nos Pos, Arizona -**  
On September 23, 2021, the Capital Projects Management Department conducted a final inspection of the North Phase III Powerline Extension.

The project was funded by CAP-35-18, Sihasin Year 2 funds at a total cost of \$2,233,800.51



The construction was completed by NTUA and 23 homes were served by the project.

# ASC Recognizes Agency Staff



The Administrative Service Centers Department held a series of training and staff recognition sessions at Fire Rock Casino and will be holding two more sessions at Twin Arrows Casino. The purpose was to provide training on Chapter Transition Planning and Employee Performance Management. This was followed by an appreciation luncheon where the staff were recognized for their dedication and perseverance throughout the pandemic. Special guests included Council Delegates and Mr. Pax Harvey. DCD Administration staff were also on hand to provide words of reflection and encouragement.

There were 3 sessions held at Fire Rock:

- November 12, 2021 - Eastern Agency ASC Staff
- November 18, 2021 - Ft. Defiance Agency ASC Staff
- November 22, 2021 - Northern Agency ASC Staff

There will be 2 more sessions to be held at Twin Arrows:

- December 6, 2021 - Central Agency ASC Staff
- December 13, 2021 - Western Agency ASC Staff

November 2021



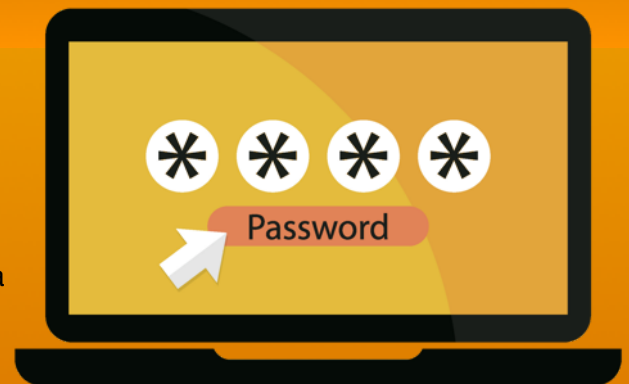
# Top 6 Tips for Securing Your Passwords In 2021

## 1. Embrace a good password practice

No fancy tool out there can help you if you don't take adequate care of your credentials. When you are creating a new password, consider the following:

A password has to be at least eight characters long,  
It has to contain a mix of lower and upper case letters, symbols, and numbers,  
It shouldn't include any personal name or information (e.g., birth date),  
It should be memorable but not common.

Furthermore, creating a solid password is just the tip of the iceberg – there is a lot more to a reliable security scheme. First of all, you should regularly change your passwords – the best practice would be every 60 to 90 days. This way, you can lower the risk of a potential data breach. Secondly, you should never reuse passwords. If you have a few memorable phrases that you rotate in combination with different numbers and symbols, stop! It's simply not secure enough because if someone cracks one of your passwords, they'll have a pretty easy time with others. Lastly, don't share your passwords with anyone, and don't store them on your device.



## 2. Use a multi-factor authentication

A plain-old password is just not good enough to combat today's security threats. The best practice is to implement several layers of protection to make sure that your credentials aren't easily accessible. Multi-factor authentication will get you covered. It implies the combination of 'the things you know' like passwords or PINs with 'the thing you have' – USB keys, tokens, or devices. The third layer of protection involves 'the things you are' or, in other words, some biometric factor like a fingerprint, voice recognition, or face scan. This way, if someone tries to come by your credentials, it is pretty unlikely that they're going to break through all three protective levels.

## 3. Let a password manager keep an eye on your credentials

According to Google's statistics, only 15 percent of Americans use a password manager. On the other side, 64 percent of Americans reportedly experienced a data breach. If you find yourself somewhere in these numbers, consider changing your security tactics. Password managers have been on the cybersecurity stage for quite some time and they are straightforward to set up and use. Their main task is to generate high-security passwords and use them to protect your credentials. Also, password managers encrypt all the data, meaning that no one can decipher your passwords even if they steal them. Lastly, one of the most popular reasons to use a password manager tends to be convenience – you don't have to worry about coming up with a new password for every new account you open. You'll have to create and remember one master password to enter your password manager, and that's it.





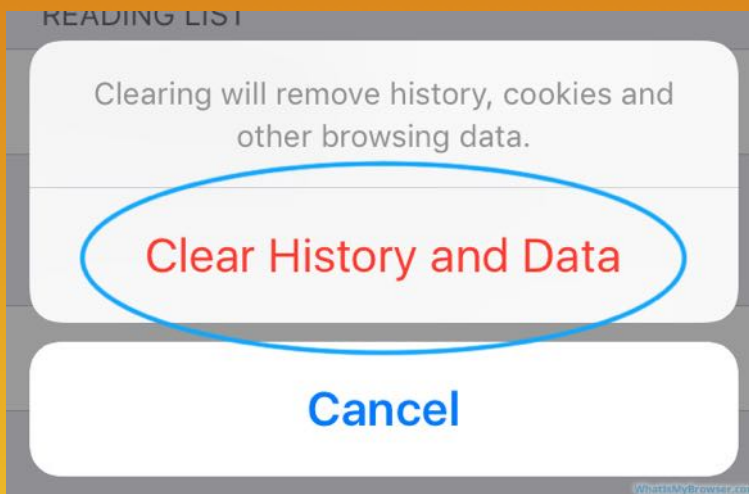
#### 4. Don't access personal data from public Wi-Fi

Open Wi-Fi networks can be a real security hazard because they're a potential arena for all sorts of cyberattacks. One of the most common ones is the 'Man in the middle attack,' where a hacker poses between the user and the service provider and steals the data. People involved in communication think they are talking to each other, but the hacker controls the conversation. Along with the 'man in the middle,' various cyber-attacks and threats could steal your credentials and endanger your personal information. The best practice is to avoid public networks altogether, but if you're in a hurry and you genuinely need access to the internet, be careful and protect your data at all costs.



#### 5. Clear your browsing history

Make a practice of swiping your devices from cookies and browsing history. Even though it's not the top priority in the security scheme, it is an excellent habit. Getting rid of your cookies and browsing history will give hackers less to work with to get to your credentials, and it'll make you less susceptible to marketing tracking and ad targeting.



#### 6. Use antivirus and anti-spyware

It is pretty straightforward that using an antivirus has to be imperative to anyone who is not willing to take the risk of exposing their personal information to any suspicious parties. The most significant advantage of antivirus is that it detects the malware in real-time, meaning that it can reduce the possibility of harming your device. However, installing antivirus software and hoping that it will just magically catch every malware coming your way is unrealistic. Like any other software,

antivirus needs to be taken care of all the time – regular updates are the way to ensure the proper functioning of your software and dispose of any malfunctions and bugs.

Designing a unique and durable security strategy tends to be laborious work. For that reason, most companies today pay a lot of money to protect their sensitive data and ensure their employees' safety. Even though most people don't think of their personal credentials to be as valuable as professional ones, they are still an eye-catcher for every cybercriminal out there. Take our advice and start small by implementing these few practices and develop your cybersecurity strategy from there. READ MORE --> <https://cybersecurity-magazine.com/top-6-tips-for-securing-your-passwords-in-2021/>



# 2021 Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant Awardees Announced

Through a competitive grant process, the Outdoor Recreation Division is investing \$506,736 in 25 organizations to build trails, trailheads, signage, river access, and more throughout New Mexico



PHOTO SOURCE: INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

SANTA FE, N.M. – Today, the Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD) of the Economic Development Department (EDD) announced the awardees of the Outdoor Recreation Trails+ grant.

ORD administers this infrastructure program (formerly called the Special Projects and Outdoor Infrastructure grant) to improve access to outdoor recreation, while simultaneously bolstering the state's outdoor recreation economy, which made up 2.5% of GDP in 2019. The grant funds conservation-centric, shovel-ready projects that are open to the public and demonstrate a clear benefit to the community, either by attracting and retaining businesses and residents and/or attracting visitors. Eligible projects include trail systems, trailheads, signage, outdoor classrooms, river access, and more.

Tribes and Pueblos, municipalities, counties, other political subdivisions of the state, and nonprofits are eligible to apply. The grant requires a 1:1 match (in-kind accepted) from other funding sources. Funding is split between tribal, rural, acequia/land grant, and urban communities.

This year, 25 organizations were awarded a total of \$506,736.17, with the projects bringing in an additional \$1.628 million in matching funds. Sixty-four percent of this year's awarded projects are located in rural counties. This is a 316% increase from 2020, when six organizations were funded with just over \$77,000. The growth in funds is due to the leadership of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and EDD Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes, as well as support from state lawmakers. That said, ORD could still only fund 42% of the total ask. In 2021, 60 organizations applied for Trails+ funding, with a total request of \$1.2 million.

"These outdoor recreation infrastructure projects will help connect the state's incredible landscape with local businesses and across New Mexico. These initiatives from Eddy to Mora County increase the quality of life and well being in New Mexico, while creating jobs and boosting economic growth" said Secretary Keyes.

"The response this year to the Outdoor Recreation Trails+ grant was overwhelming positive," ORD Director Axie Navas said. "We're proud to support these 25 amazing organizations all over the state who are developing trails, encouraging stewardships, building boat ramps, improving outdoor classrooms, and so much more with the goal of increasing sustainable access to the state's landscapes."

"Funding projects like this brings the best adaptive mountain bike technology to New Mexico and initiates inclusive adaptive trail projects," Dustin Berg, founder and executive director of Global Opportunities Unlimited and one of the 2021 Trails+ awardees said. "It enables wheelchair users with compromised mobility to truly enjoy the natural beauty of our states great outdoors and participate side-by-side with their cycling peers in a healthy, fun, and rewarding outdoor activity."

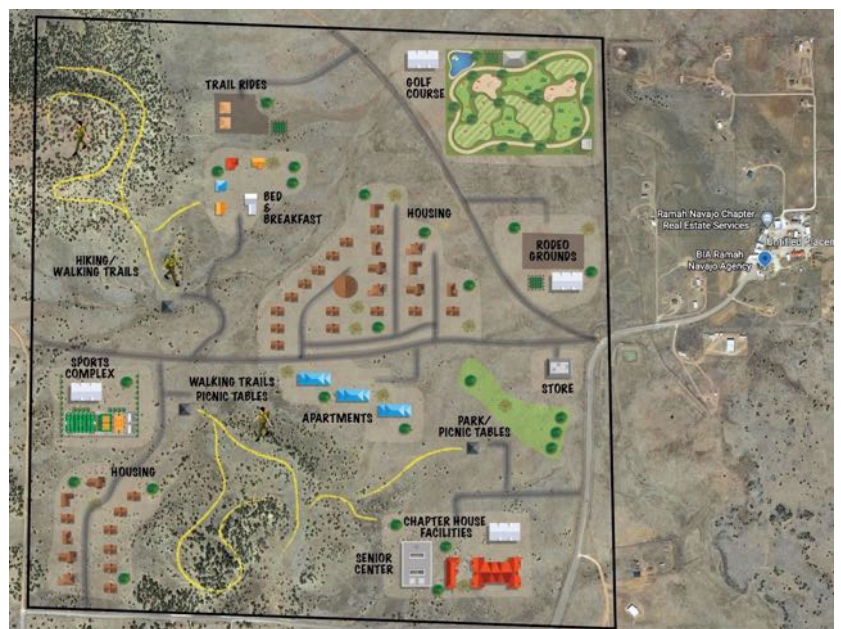
Visit the ORD website for a complete list of 2020 and 2021 Trails+ awardees, as well as complete program guides (in English and Spanish) for the grant.

## Ramah Navajo Chapter Fitness Cultural Nature Trail

Funding will support building a nature trail that allows safe terrain for running, walking, mountain biking and snow tubing in the winter. The trail will have a lower and upper loop, with name/use markers for indigenous plants, two picnic shelters with all-weather tables, rest benches, fitness stations, one group shelter with a cooking grill/fire pit and a parking area. Navajo Nation Unhealthy Food Tax Funds will be leveraged as well to help support the project.

**Location:** Ramah  
**Award:** \$19,320.00

READ MORE AT: <https://edd.newmexico.gov/pr/2021-outdoor-recreation-trails-grant-awardees-announced/>



# Bulletin Board

## Bearsun Travels Back to the Navajo Nation after Completing His Epic Trek Across the U.S.

Bearsun walked from Los Angeles to New York City and along the way, walked right through the Navajo Nation. His arrival on the Navajo Nation was met with great excitement as each community held events in his honor as he made his way from Leupp to Window Rock to Crownpoint and beyond.

The response to his presence was so overwhelming that Bearsun vowed to come back after he finished his walk across America. On Friday, November 26, 2021, he did just that and made an appearance in Window Rock. Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez did a live broadcast on KTNN via Facebook and the link to the recorded session can be found here:

<https://fb.watch/9C8V7SFhfc/>

Bearsun also greeted fans at the Navajo Nation Museum.

Bearsun is next planning on running from Florida to Seattle, WA to raise money for veterans.



## Navajo Nation applauds \$25 million grant for road repairs and improvements for U.S. 64



PHOTO: (left to right) Navajo Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez in Phoenix, Ariz. on July 15, 2021.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer are pleased with the U.S. Department of Transportation's approval of \$25 million in grant funding to repair and improve a 21-mile stretch of the U.S. 64 corridor that runs through Shiprock, N.M., located in the northern portion of the Navajo Nation.

The project will include massive improvements including widening and new pavement of the entire 21-mile stretch of highway, bridge replacements, drainage improvements, new safety lighting, and the installation of new fiber optic cable to help manage and operate the roadway.

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we thank the Biden-Harris Administration, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs Arlando Teller, our Congressional representatives, and many other partners for continuing to uphold their commitment to working

together with the Navajo Nation. Many individuals helped to secure this much-needed grant funding that will benefit thousands of our Navajo people who rely on U.S. 64 on a daily basis. Infrastructure development is the foundation of our Nation and we must continue to work closely with our local, state, and federal partners to advance more improvements for our people," said President Nez, who spoke specifically about the need to improve U.S. 64 with New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and others over the last few years.

Vice President Lizer said the project will improve the overall transportation system in the region and help to create more economic opportunities by creating a safer and more reliable road for residents and businesses to utilize.

"We truly appreciate the great collaboration and support from all entities and individuals who laid their hands to this effort. U.S. 64 is a primary route for many Navajo people, tourists, businesses, and first responders. We look forward to seeing this project completed," said Vice President Lizer.

The \$25 million in funding is made available through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The roadway stretches from Shiprock, N.M. westbound to the Arizona border.

U.S. Deputy Asst. Sec. for Tribal Affairs Arlando Teller stated, "The improvements to U.S. 64 will not only provide safe travels to all, but addresses infrastructure issues we deserve. Partnerships with all DOT's and agencies continue to provide innovation."

The Nez-Lizer Administration also thanks U.S. Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), and U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (D-N.M.) for their support for the project and grant funding that will benefit the Navajo Nation.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3rwtvxE>

## Man makes learning Navajo fun for children

BY TAMARA VAIFANUA, KSLTV

SALT LAKE CITY – The saying goes, lose your language, lose your culture – that's the fear among the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo language is complex.

So difficult to crack that during World War II, the U.S. military used Navajo words to confuse the enemy.

The creator of a new TV show is trying to simplify the language for children in a fun way – through the use of puppets.

Few young Navajo's speak the language of their ancestors, or as they call it, Dine Bizaad.

"The last study that I read was a little over 20% spoken in the home, and that's four years ago," said Pete Sands.

Sands is fluent in Navajo and wants the younger generation to keep it alive.

"When you pray in that Indigenous language, you sing songs in that language, what good is it if you don't know what those words mean?" Sands asked.

He's teaching children Navajo through puppets named Ash and Sadie.

They're the stars of a show he's producing called "Navajo Highways."

Episodes will highlight life on the Navajo Nation.

"We also want to be educational as well as entertaining," said Sands.

Sands came up with the idea after visiting a school in San Juan County.

"She was trying to tell her students to clean the classroom and they wouldn't listen to her. So, she took out this puppet," he said.

Mabel Martin is the host and teaches Navajo to students at Montezuma Creek Elementary School.

"When I was a kid, I watched Sesame Street. I learned the letters, you know, and the concept," she said.

Martin believes "Navajo Highways" can have the same impact.

"First of all, it's going to revitalize our language. Through toys, through storytelling, it'll really pick up student's attention," she said.

The hope is children will start the conversation and parents will keep it going at home.

Sands and Martin said it's not about perfection, but striving to be like their ancestors and preserving their language.

"You can't have a culture without the language," said Sands.



Martin added, "Our Navajo people, here we come. Our language is coming back."

"Navajo Highways" will debut in January on Youtube and at the Sundance Film Festival.

Eventually, Sands would like to get media companies like PBS to pick it up so it can reach more people, and serve as a model for other Native American communities.

READ MORE AT: <https://ksltv.com/477602/man-makes-learning-navajo-fun-for-children/>

# Bulletin Board

## Navajo Nation honors and recognizes Diné warriors on Veterans Day



"It is my honor to recognize the thousands of Navajo veterans who have served our country in every branch of the Armed Services. Upon their service to the country, many returned home to provide for their families, and many became community leaders and professionals who continue to contribute to our society. Many of our warriors also helped respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate their bravery and courage for always lending a helping hand. Today, we also have to remember, pray, and support veterans and their families who carry their service's mental, emotional, and physical scars. We also honor and show appreciation for all Diné warriors who are currently serving in the Armed Forces to ensure our country remains strong, resilient, and united," said President Nez.

President Nez added, "Today, we also pray for those who have passed on and pray for all of the Gold Star Mothers and Families. Most importantly, we cannot celebrate this special day without acknowledging our Navajo Code Talkers, who used our sacred language, the words of our ancestors, to help win World War II. We pray for them and all of their loved ones. Today is a time to be proud of who we are as Diné people, to pay tribute to all of the men and women who serve our country, and to honor and remember those who gave their lives for our freedom and our country."

U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly stated that he wanted to be on the Navajo Nation on Veterans Day because he understands the long and proud history of military service that the Navajo people have provided for so many years. He also spoke about the need for the

federal government to provide more support and services for all veterans.

"We commemorate the service, sacrifice, and contributions of our Navajo veterans who defended and preserved our life, liberty, and freedom. We are forever thankful for the many Diné warriors who have bravely fought worldwide to protect our homeland. Every Navajo Veteran is a hero to the American people. We take pride in our Navajo Code Talkers, who have been nationally recognized for their unbreakable code that assisted in the country's win during World War II. We love our Navajo veterans. Today, we pledge to support those who have fought for us. They deserve our prayers, support, and gratitude," said Vice President Lizer.

Tuba City Agency Commander Billy Goodman, Jr., who serves on the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council, also spoke and recognized his fellow veterans for their service and spoke about the need to work together to continue improving services and benefits for Navajo veterans.

Navajo comedian and motivational speaker Pax Harvey served as the Master of Ceremony for the event. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Deputy Director Hubert Smith. The Office of the President and Vice President thanks all veterans for their service and everyone who coordinated and assisted with the veterans event. To watch the virtual event, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQPI4qliKuA>.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3o8ay2j>

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and First Lady Phefelia Nez were joined by Tuba City Agency Commander Billy Goodman, Jr., U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Office of U.S. Sen. Ben Ray Lujan's field representative Brian Lee, Navajo Nation Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. and Jimmy Yellowhair, Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Director James Zwierlein, and Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge to commemorate Veterans Day during a live-streamed event at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, Ariz., the capital of the Navajo Nation.

During his address, President Nez delivered a message of appreciation to all Navajo veterans, their families, and their communities. He also acknowledged Gold Star Mothers and Families who have lost their loved ones during military service.

## Navajo Nation applauds Signing of \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Bill by President Biden



commends President Biden for his leadership on this historic day."

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is the largest investment in Tribal Nation infrastructure projects to include:

- \$3.5 billion for the Indian Health Service (IHS) sanitation facilities construction
- \$3 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation tribal transportation program
- \$2.5 billion to address Indian water rights settlements previously approved
- \$55 billion for assistance grants for purposes of providing clean and safe drinking water to tribal communities
- \$2 billion for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for the tribal broadband connectivity program to expand broadband access
- \$11.2 billion for grants for abandoned coal mine land and water reclamation projects

"For decades we have been advocating for the water rights of our Utah Navajo families and this law now provides full funding to begin connecting our water lines," said Delegate Charlaïne Tso (Mexican Water, Tóikan, Teec Nos Pos, Aneth, Red Mesa). "Many of our Navajo homes will now have access to water, our main life source. It matters a lot to us that grandma and grandpa drink safe water, and our families in Utah can turn on the faucet for clean water. Our communities in Utah send our appreciation to President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris for their leadership."

According to the Interior Department, this law makes historic investments in Indigenous communities' efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

"Indigenous communities are facing unique climate-related challenges that pose existential

threats to Tribal economies, infrastructure, livelihoods, and health. Coastal communities are facing flooding, erosion, permafrost subsidence, sea level rise, and storm surges, while inland communities are facing worsening drought and extreme heat," said Interior Secretary Debra Haaland. "The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal's historic investments in Tribal communities will help bolster community resilience, replace aging infrastructure, and provide support needed for climate-related relocation and adaptation."

The law includes a \$466 million investment for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for infrastructure projects and climate resiliency initiatives to include:

- \$250 million for construction, repair, improvement and maintenance of irrigation and power systems, safety of dams, water sanitation and other facilities
- \$216 million for climate resilience, adaptation and community relocation planning, design and implementation of projects which address the varying climate challenges facing tribes across the country

"Everyone knows we're long overdue to make major investments in infrastructure, but nobody knows that better than Indian Country. Tribal lands have been chronically underfunded for generations. And so I'm very proud to say that when I sign the bill, the single-largest investment in Tribal infrastructure ever is going to occur: more than \$13 billion in direct investments to Indian Country and tens of billions more in grants and future funding opportunities — funding for clean drinking water, high-speed Internet, roads and bridges, environmental cleanups, and so much more," said President Biden during the White House Tribal Nations Summit.

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/3rpQ3jW>

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 24th Navajo Nation Council applauds the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law by President Joe Biden at the White House. This Act is a key part of the Biden Administration's economic agenda during this pandemic.

The infrastructure bill will deliver \$550 billion in new federal investments across the country in the span of five years for bridges, roads, broadband connections, water, and new energy systems.

"By signing this infrastructure bill into law, President Biden has sent a clear message to Sovereign Nations around the country that we are a top priority," said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaali, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh). "\$214 million will be used to bring running water to 40 percent of Navajo families because the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement is fully funded. Over \$11 billion in new infrastructure projects will be funded around Indian Country to begin construction on broadband internet lines, roadways, bridges, and water pipelines. The Navajo Nation Council

# Bulletin Board

## Navajo rebuild traditional foodways as inflation, supply chain woes hit hard

As the country's supply chain has fractured, areas that were already at the fringes of the system, like the reservation, have suffered even harsher impacts.



**Tyrone Thompson, owner of Ch'ishie Farms on the Navajo Nation, plucks ripe red radishes from the ground inside his greenhouse. "Ch'ishie" is a Diné word that means "ashy," so named, he says, because farm work is dusty and dirty. Andrew Davis / NBC News**

NAVAJO NATION, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation spreads across more than 27,000 square miles, but its citizens, the Diné – as many prefer to be called – are served by fewer than a dozen grocery stores.

As the country's supply chain fractured, causing shipping delays, areas that were already at the fringes of that system, like the reservation, felt even harsher impacts.

Germaine Simonson owns the Rocky Ridge Gas & Market store in the Hard Rock chapter of the Navajo Nation (a chapter is similar to a town in the reservation context). Her humble grocery store is like a mirage at the confluence of two gravel, washboard roads: It's the only place across more than 100 miles where her community can buy food and essential items.

And it's not easy to keep her shelves stocked. "I don't have purchasing power," she said, gesturing to the stacks of snacks around her.

"For a while there, we weren't able to get tissue products. We weren't able to get Clorox products, wipes, sanitizers," she said, referring to the peak period of Covid-19 spread on the Navajo Nation.

Many of Simonson's customers must drive 30 miles each way for groceries, and rain makes the dirt roads impassable. Even her delivery trucks sometimes can't make the drive, and she has to meet customers at the nearest thoroughfare or go pick up supplies herself.

"A fish without water. That's how I feel most of the time being here in this rural community," she said, noting that she also loves her people and this land.

"I just don't have the resources. I mean, did you see a bank coming here? Did you see, you know, maybe an accountant's office that, you know, I could go to? Did you see a Small Business Administration office? Nothing, you saw nothing," said Simonson, who had a career in social work before she took over the grocery store.

Food was already expensive on the Navajo Nation before the pandemic. Shoppers often pay more than twice what they would in larger border cities for staples like milk and meat. Simonson said she has to mark up products just to stay open and cover the costs of operating.

Roxana Bedonie, a resident of the Navajo Nation and a mother of four, would have to drive for hours for groceries if not for Rocky Ridge. "The prices is kind of high, but sometimes I don't have the gas money to go all the way out into border towns, and so this is

my last option," she said.

She notices the higher prices locally: At nearly \$7 a gallon, milk is more than double what it would cost at the Walmart in Phoenix. And Simonson sells a 12.1-ounce can of baby formula, which costs less than \$30 at big-box stores, for \$44.

The food inflation rate is on the rise across the country, but on the Navajo Nation, food prices rose by 14.6 percent more on average in the third quarter of the year than in urban centers. Categories like produce and deli have been particularly more expensive on the Navajo Nation, according to the research firm Datasembly.

Even regional grocers have struggled to stay afloat during the pandemic. The grocery chain Bashas', which has operated on the Navajo Nation for more than 40 years, is selling to Raley's, a larger supermarket chain. "As a small regional [market], we were struggling to get product into our distribution center. We don't have the buying power, so we don't have the clout that the national retailers have," said Trey Basha, the CEO and president of



**Chef Carlos Deal, who owns AlterNative Eats, which caters to the Navajo Nation, hopes his locally sourced salads will help his Diné community on a path to food sovereignty. Andrew Davis / NBC News**

Bashas' Inc.

Navajo farmers, chefs work to decolonize food

"People with money shouldn't be the only ones to buy a fresh garden salad, you know what I mean?" chef Carlos Deal, who is Diné, said as he sliced vegetables in an impromptu kitchen space at the back of Simonson's market.

Deal, who put himself through the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts in Boulder, Colorado, owns and operates a catering company called AlterNative Eats. Even though his kitchen has a makeshift stove and no vent hood, he said, he will work as long and hard as it takes to help his people eat more healthily.

Deal is part of a growing movement on the Navajo Nation to decolonize the reservation's reliance on highly processed outside food. It's a diet that was forced upon them: The federal government systematically destroyed their traditional foodways beginning in the 1860s.

"They burnt all the food, they burnt all the crops, they destroyed all the fruit trees. And they burnt all the homes, and then they started sending everybody to concentration camps," Deal said, referring to the Long Walk, during which the U.S. Cavalry forced Navajo men, women and children to walk hundreds of miles.

"They gave us shortening, lard, at the concentration camp. They gave us flour, sugar, salt," he said, pointing out the high rates of diabetes and obesity among his community members.

Despite the effort to destroy their culture, entrepreneurs on the

Navajo Nation aren't giving up. They're building a new food system that grows and distributes food locally. The microgreens, carrots and herbs that Deal lovingly arranges in a neat plastic box to sell at Rocky Ridge Gas & Grocery were grown at a Navajo-owned farm called Ch'ishie Farms near Leupp, Arizona.

One recent afternoon under a setting sun, Ch'ishie Farms' owner, Tyrone Thompson, plucked kale and radishes from neat rows in his greenhouse and dropped them in a crinkly paper bag for Deal to take back to the market.

"It's just getting back to our roots and, you know, our traditional ways, as well as adopting innovative ways like the hoop houses," said Thompson, who has helped his community build more than 40 greenhouses.

But progress is slow, food is expensive, and bureaucratic red tape is particularly sticky on the Navajo Nation. Bleu Adams, a chef and restaurateur, says food prices, for meat in particular, tripled and quadrupled because the Navajo Nation is "the last rung on the supply chain ladder."

"It was very intentional. We had a great amount of natural resources that companies, including the federal government, wanted," she said.

Like Thompson and Deal, Adams is reclaiming her Indigenous identity with food.

"There's so much you can do with Indigenous cooking," said Adams, who is Hidatsa, Mandan and Diné, sitting in the kitchen of her closed restaurant, Blackbird Brunch. "It's both been here since time immemorial but it's also like this burgeoning culinary scene." Blackbird Brunch was forced to shut in the pandemic, but she has big plans for the space.

She is trying to build a coworking space and small-business incubator called Indigihub, complete with speedy broadband internet (not to mention electricity and water, which many Navajo people don't have).

At Rocky Ridge Gas & Market, Simonson, who is trying to piece together repairs on the aging building, hopes to have an on-site



**Chef and restaurateur Bleu Adams had to remove beef from her menu because prices had more than tripled. Andrew Davis / NBC News**

hoop house of her own someday.

"There has to be constant education about foods, and how, you know, really that food is medicine," said Simonson, who said she wishes her patrons would buy more broccoli and fewer bags of chips. "And so it's going to be a slow process."

READ MORE AT: <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/navajo-rebuild-traditional-food-ways-inflation-supply-chain-woes-hit-h-rcna6502>

## PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PAY RATE</u>	<u>CLOSING DATE</u>
<b>Administrative Service Centers</b>			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Lake, NM	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Forest Lake, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Mesa, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Lukachukai, AZ	26,726.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Tolani Lake, AZ	27,519.84	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Sanostee, NM	38,836.80	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Rock Springs, NM	27,519.84	12/09/2021
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Whitecone, AZ	38,836.80	12/03/2021

### Capital Projects Management Department

Registered Architect (S)	Window Rock, AZ	69,217.20	OUF
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(OUF) Open Until Filled

(S) Sensitive Position (subject to background check)


Closing Dates may change due temporary reduction in non-essential Navajo Nation government services

For the most up-to-date personnel info, please visit DPM's website at  
<http://www.dpm.navajo-nsn.gov/jobs.html>

### Comic of the Month



### Inspirational Quote of the Month

  
**"When you practice  
 gratefulness,  
 there is a sense  
 of respect  
 towards others."**

- DALAI LAMA

**RS**

# Navajo Nation Chapters



## TEMPORARY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Vacant CSC Positions Vacant AMS Positions

THE NAVAJO NATION GIVES PREFERENCE TO ELIGIBLE AND QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NAVAJO PREFERENCE IN EMPLOYMENT ACT AND VETERANS' PREFERENCE

- **Required** to be submitted with your [Navajo Nation Employment Application \(09.16.2016 Revised\)](#)
- Copy of Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood
- Copy of HS Diploma / GED Certificate
- Copies of transcripts and degree(s) to receive credit for education
- Copies of Certifications (Licensures, First Aid, CPR, etc.)
- Copy of Valid State Driver License/ID

### Submit Navajo Nation Employment Application to

[asc@nndcd.org](mailto:asc@nndcd.org)

Division of Community  
Development – ASC  
Department

#### FOR INFO CONTACT:

Local ASC Offices or  
[sjim-martin@nndcd.org](mailto:sjim-martin@nndcd.org)

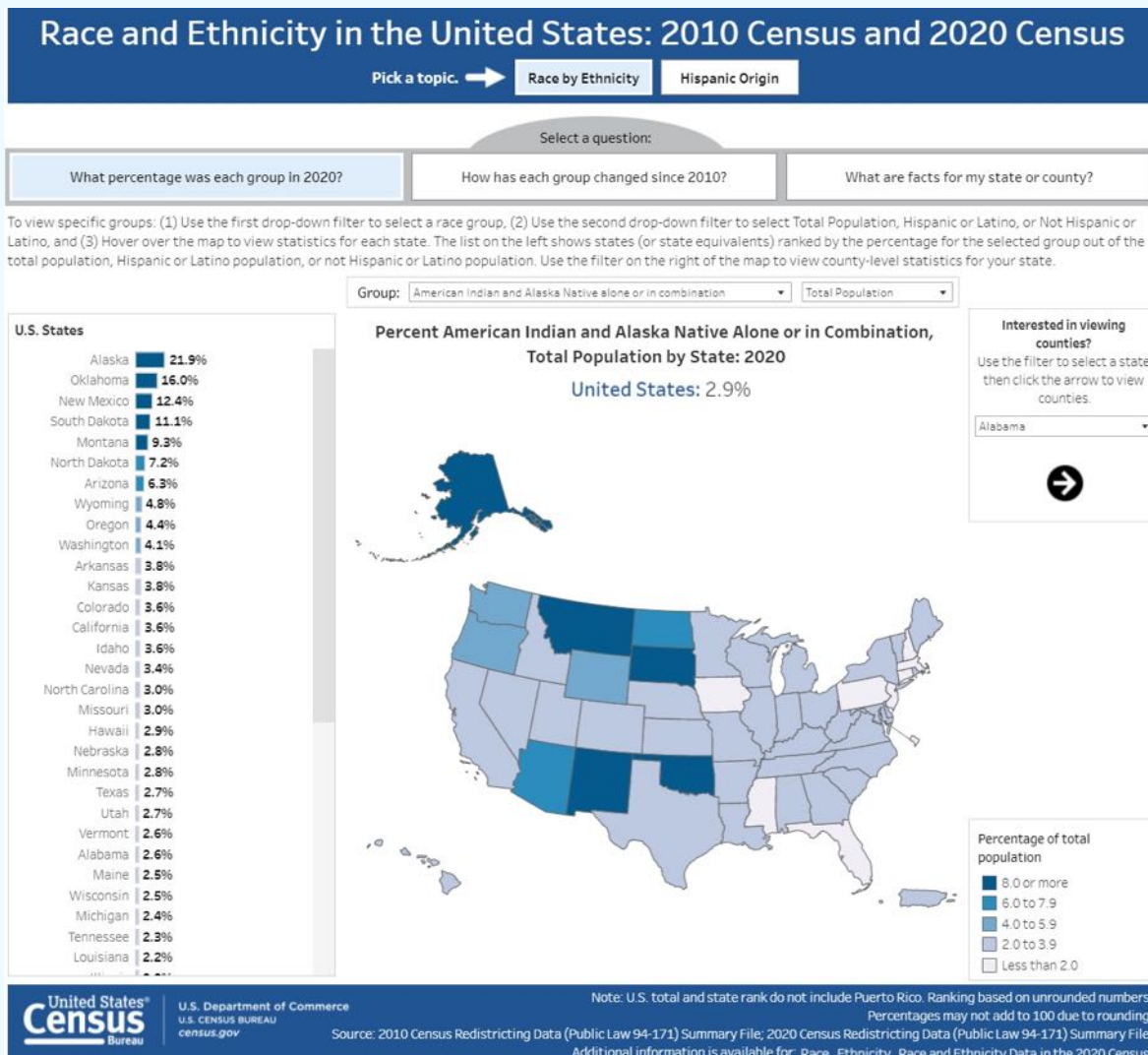
## Native American Heritage Day: November 26, 2021

NOVEMBER 26, 2021

RELEASE NUMBER CB21-SFS.155

From The American Presidency Project, Proclamation 10302–National Native American Heritage Month, 2021

“The United States of America was founded on an idea: that all of us are created equal and deserve equal treatment, equal dignity, and equal opportunity throughout our lives. Throughout our history—though we have always strived to live up to that idea and have never walked away from it—the fact remains that we have fallen short many times. Far too often in our founding era and in the centuries since, the promise of our Nation has been denied to Native Americans who have lived on this land since time immemorial.



“Despite a painful history marked by unjust Federal policies of assimilation and termination, American Indian and Alaska Native peoples have persevered. During National Native American Heritage Month, we celebrate the countless contributions of Native peoples past and present, honor the influence they have had on the advancement of our Nation, and recommit ourselves to upholding trust and treaty responsibilities, strengthening Tribal sovereignty, and advancing Tribal self-determination...

“I urge all Americans, as well as their elected representatives at the Federal, State, and local levels, to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to celebrate November 26, 2021, as Native American Heritage Day.”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/native-american-heritage-day.html>

# Season's Greetings!

## 2020 Population Totals of Festive-Sounding Places in the United States

(Population totals as of April 1, 2020)

Garland, TX	246,018
Holiday, FL	24,939
Mount Holly, NC	17,703
Holly Springs, GA	16,213
Holly Hill, FL	12,958
Holly Springs, MS	6,968
Snowflake, AZ	6,140
Holly Village, MI	5,997
Holiday Shores, IL	2,840
Santa Claus, IN	2,586
North Pole, AK	2,243
Noel, MO	2,124
Dasher, GA	890
Holly Pond, AL	851
Holly, CO	837
Holly Grove, AR	460
Rudolph, WS	433
Unity, OR	40

United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census**  
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Source: 2020 Decennial Census  
<<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/advanced?t=Population%20and%20People>>





< Back to COVID-19 Home

## COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens

Updated Nov. 4, 2021 Languages

### Most Children and All Teens Can Get COVID-19 Vaccines

CDC recommends **everyone ages 5 and older** get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19.

#### Vaccines Authorized For

##### Children 4 years and under:

- None

##### Children 5–11 years old:

- Pfizer-BioNTech

##### Teens 12–17 years old:

- Pfizer-BioNTech

##### Everyone 18 years and older:

- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Moderna
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen

Widespread vaccination for COVID-19 is a critical tool to best protect everyone, especially those at highest risk, from severe illness and death. People who are fully vaccinated can safely resume many activities that they did prior to the pandemic. Children ages 5 years and older are able to get an age-appropriate dose of [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#). Learn more about what you and your child or teen can do [when fully vaccinated](#).

### Find a COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 5 Years and Older

- The federal government is providing the COVID-19 vaccine **free of charge** to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.
- Check with your child's healthcare provider about whether they offer COVID-19 vaccination.
- Check your local pharmacy's website to see if vaccination walk-ins or appointments are available for children.
- Contact your [state, territorial, local, or tribal health department](#) for more information.



**Find a COVID-19 vaccine:** Search [vaccines.gov](#), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call [1-800-232-0233](#) to find locations near you.

### Why Children and Teens Should Get Vaccinated for COVID-19

While COVID-19 tends to be milder in children compared with adults, it can make children very sick and cause children to be hospitalized. In some situations, the complications from infection can lead to death.

Although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can

- Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
- Get very sick from COVID-19
- Have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19
- Spread COVID-19 to others

Children with [underlying medical conditions](#) are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 compared with children without underlying medical conditions. Children who get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 can also develop serious complications like [multisystem inflammatory syndrome \(MIS-C\)](#)—a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

### Help Protect Your Child, Your Family, and Others

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect children ages 5 years and older from getting COVID-19.

- Vaccinating children can help protect family members, including siblings who are not eligible for vaccination and family members who may be at increased risk of getting very sick if they are infected.
- Vaccination can also help keep children from getting seriously sick even if they do get COVID-19.
- Vaccinating children ages 5 years and older can help keep them in school and help them safely participate in sports, playdates, and other group activities.

Help protect your whole family and slow the spread of COVID-19 in your community by getting yourself and your children ages 5 years and older vaccinated against COVID-19.

#### Protect Unvaccinated Children

Unvaccinated children ages 2 years and older should wear a mask in public spaces and around people they don't live with. Learn more about [protecting unvaccinated family members](#).

### COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe for Children and Teens

Before recommending COVID-19 vaccination for children, scientists conducted clinical trials. The FDA gave the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine emergency authorization to use in children ages 5-15 years old and full approval to use in people ages 16 years and older. Learn more about the [process of developing, authorizing, and approving COVID-19 vaccines](#).

**The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks. Get a COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 years and older as soon as you can.**

COVID-19 vaccines are being monitored for safety with the most comprehensive and intense safety monitoring program in U.S. history. CDC monitors the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines after the vaccines are authorized or approved for use, including the risk of myocarditis in children ages 5 through 11 years.

- Your child may get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including flu vaccine, at the same time.
- [Serious health events after COVID-19 vaccination are rare](#).
- Cases of [myocarditis](#) (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) have been reported after Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination of children ages 12–17 years. These reactions are rare; in one study, the risk of myocarditis after the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech in the week following vaccination was around 54 cases per million doses administered to males ages 12–17 years.
- A [severe allergic reaction](#), like anaphylaxis, may happen after any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines, but this is rare.
- Your child cannot get COVID-19 from any COVID-19 vaccine, including the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Learn more about [how mRNA vaccines, like the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, work](#).
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Dosage and Administration for Children and Teens

- Adolescents ages 12 years and older receive the same dosage of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as adults.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 years has the same active ingredients as the vaccine given to adults and adolescents. However, children ages 5 through 11 years cannot get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine given to adults and adolescents. In addition, children ages 5 through 11 years receive an age-appropriate dose that is one-third of the adult dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Smaller needles, designed specifically for children, are also used for children ages 5 through 11 years.
- Unlike many medications, COVID-19 vaccine dosage does not vary by patient weight but by age on the day of vaccination.
- Your child will need a second shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine three weeks after their first shot.

### Preparing Children and Teens for Vaccination

The experience of getting a COVID-19 vaccine will be very similar to the experience of getting routine vaccines. Use our [tips to support your child before, during, and after routine vaccinations](#) when they get a COVID-19 vaccine.

- Talk to your child before vaccination about [what to expect](#).
- It is **not recommended** you give pain relievers before vaccination to try to prevent side effects.

- Tell the doctor or nurse about any allergies your child may have.
- To prevent fainting and injuries related to fainting, your child should be seated or lying down during vaccination and for 15 minutes after the vaccine is given.
- After your child's COVID-19 vaccination, you will be asked to stay for 15–30 minutes so your child can be observed in case they have a severe allergic reaction and need immediate treatment.

### After Your Child's COVID-19 Vaccination

#### Possible side effects

Your child may have some [side effects](#), which are normal signs that their body is building protection.

On the arm where your child got the shot:



- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

Throughout the rest of their body:



- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

These side effects may affect your child's ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects and severe allergic reactions are rare. If your child [experiences a severe allergic reaction](#) after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, vaccine providers can rapidly provide care and call for emergency medical services, if needed.

Ask your child's healthcare provider for advice on using a non-aspirin pain reliever and other steps you can take at home after your child gets vaccinated. In general, aspirin is **not recommended** for use in children and adolescents less than 18 years of age. Placing a cool, damp cloth on the injection site can help with discomfort.

#### Get Started with v-safe

Get started with [v-safe](#), a free, easy-to-use, and confidential smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after your child receives a COVID-19 vaccination. Through v-safe, you can report how your child is feeling after getting vaccinated. **V-safe** also reminds you when to get your child's second dose. Learn more about [v-safe](#) and share this tool with other parents and caregivers to use after vaccination.



The DCD Newsletter, "Community Info", is produced monthly by the Division of Community Development and is a resource for division staff and chapters.

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