

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT




MEMORANDUM

TO: Polling Site Staff, Poll Workers, Voters, Candidates, and Other Groups

FROM:


Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director
Navajo Department of Health


Geraldine Thompson, Delegated Program Supervisor I
Navajo Office of Environmental Health & Protection Program

DATE: November 1, 2022

SUBJECT: **UPDATED - 2022 COVID-19 Safety Considerations for Election Polling and Voters for In-Person Voting on the Navajo Nation**

This guideline is intended for voters, poll workers, polling site staff, candidates, and other groups participating in voting activities. Polling sites may be located at chapter houses, senior centers, schools, and other facilities.

The following are best practices in keeping everyone safe while voting on the Navajo Nation.

Everyone's Safety is Important

1. Practice the three W's
 - a. Wear a Mask: Wear masks indoors and outdoors in accordance with current public health emergency orders. Masks do not have to be worn when eating and drinking.
 - b. Wash Hands: Use hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol or hand washing stations that are convenient, and accessible for all. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - c. Watch Distance: Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet.
2. Self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival.
3. Get updated flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.
4. Stay home when sick with COVID-19 symptoms. Early vote by mail and ballot drop off, where available, provide flexible options for voters to plan ahead and safely cast their ballots.

Practice Healthy Behaviors as Voters

1. Voters are encouraged to rideshare or carpool with individuals from their immediate household only to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19, and to remain in the vehicle to the maximum extent possible.
2. Voters should consider early voting options to avoid long lines and waiting times on Election Day.
3. Avoid crowding and follow physical distancing requirements.

Keeping Sites Safe and Healthy - Polling Site Coordination

1. Post signage: Provide notice of options for anyone who is sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to cast their ballot and emphasize the 3 W's (wearing a mask, watching physical distance, and washing hands)
2. Require volunteers, staff, and contractors to conduct self-screening for COVID-19, and if available, rapid antigen testing.
3. Provide safety training and education on COVID-19 for support staff.
4. Provide masks and other PPE for poll workers and voters, such as masks and sanitizer wipes.
5. Monitor physical distancing while voters are waiting or voting and when exiting. For example, put markers on the floor to ensure physical distancing of 6 feet between persons.
6. Avoid crowded areas, especially when indoors and there is no fresh air from the outdoors, if you are at increased risk of getting sick from COVID-19.
7. Sanitize and disinfect high touch surface areas throughout the day, e.g., door handles, pens.
8. Ensure safe disinfection of electronic voting equipment to not damage devices.
9. Provide hand sanitizer at door entrances and exits for voters to use before entering and exiting the polling site.
10. Increase the circulation of indoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods.
11. Ensure that ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate correctly.
12. Food vendors must follow the Navajo Nation Food Handler Training and Food Service Permit Protocols by the Navajo Environmental Health & Protection Program.
 - a. Use single-use disposable plates, cups, utensils, and prepackaged condiments.
 - b. Limit crowding where the food is served.
 - c. Sites and/or groups must provide To-Go meals for voters and others.
 - d. For more information about temporary food permits, visit at <https://ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/Department/Division-of-Public-Health-Service/Office-of-Environmental-Health-Protection>, and if you have questions, please contact us at (928) 871-6349.
13. Curbside voting options and other reasonable accommodations should be made available to reduce transmission and support voters with disabilities and others who may not be able to leave their vehicle.
14. To ensure individuals are allowed to practice the 3 W's (washing hands, watching distance, wearing a mask), and to comply with reasonable accommodation requirements, restroom

access must be available to all poll workers and voters.

15. It is recommended that election officials secure alternate poll workers in case of COVID-19 exposure and infection. Polling site workers should ensure potential exposures are reported and mitigated appropriately, and create a plan to temporarily close operations of potential exposures until the area is cleaned and disinfected.

Partisan and Non-Partisan Voting Groups

All partisan and non-partisan voting groups are asked to coordinate their activities with the Navajo Nation Health Command Center and Navajo Department of Justice, Economic and Community Development Unit to ensure compliance with this guideline. Please email Ms. Frances Sjoberg at edcuunit@nndoj.org with your name, contact information, and the location, date, and time of your activities.