

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

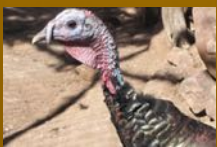
## Division of Community Development Newsletter

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### Did You Know..

Turkeys are called "Tązhii" in the Navajo language. Many traditional Navajo ceremonial stories involve the Tązhii, and turkey feathers are used in some ceremonies. Turkeys are also credited with bringing seeds into the current World for the Navajo People to have an abundance of melons, squash, corn and beans.



<https://bit.ly/39hnl5f>.

### Events:

**December: Nítchitsoh** - "abundance of cold air"

**December 10: Hannukah**

**December 21: Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)**

**December 24: Christmas Eve**

**December 25: Christmas**

**December 26: Kwanzaa**

**December 31: New Year's Eve**

## Navajo Department of Health Executive Director Dr. Jill Jim selected to serve on the Biden-Harris COVID-19 Advisory Board

### WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. –

On Saturday, the Biden-Harris transition team announced that Navajo Department of Health Executive Director Dr. Jill Jim was one of three more individuals selected to serve on the Biden-Harris COVID-19 Advisory Board, which was created in early November to help advise President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the COVID-19 pandemic.



“Dr. Jim’s extensive public health experience and expertise has been a major benefit for the Navajo Nation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and now she will serve on a much broader level to help fight this modern-day monster throughout the country. Our Nation’s COVID-19 preventative measures and restrictions put forth by our public health experts have served as a model for other states and entities across the country. I congratulate her and thank her for her dedication and commitment to helping our Navajo people,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, who recommended Dr. Jim to be appointed to the Biden-Harris COVID-19 Advisory Board.

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Dr. Jim was appointed to serve as the Executive Director for the Navajo Department of Health by President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer at the start of their administration in January 2019. Dr. Jim is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, originally from Navajo Mountain, Utah, and a fluent Navajo speaker. She earned a Doctorate in Public Health, a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration, a second Master's in Public Health from the University of Utah. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Health Promotion and Community Health Education from Northern Arizona University. Some of her previous work experience includes serving as a Health Care Analyst for HealthInsight in Albuquerque, N.M., consultant for Navajo Area Indian Health Service, and Epidemiologist for the Utah Department of Health.

"I am proud to serve as a member of the Biden-Harris Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board. I look forward to working with fellow members of the advisory board to help prepare an urgent, robust, and professional response to the global public health crisis, for President-elect Biden to lead with on day one," stated Dr. Jim.

The Biden-Harris COVID-19 Advisory Board is chaired by former Food and Drug Administration commissioner Dr. David Kessler, former Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy and Yale University Dean Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, a professor of internal medicine and a health equity researcher.

The other two appointments announced on Saturday include Jane Hopkins, a nurse who specializes in mental health and a leader of several nurses' unions and David Michaels, an epidemiologist and professor of environmental and occupational health at George Washington University, who served as an OSHA administrator in the Obama administration and an Assistant Secretary of Energy in the Clinton administration.

"We are very proud of Dr. Jim and all of our public health experts and frontline warriors who are fighting for us and saving lives every day. I am looking forward to supporting Dr. Jim's role with the Biden-Harris COVID-19 Advisory Board and I am optimistic that the Biden-Harris transition team will continue to consider more members of the Navajo Nation for cabinet and high-level appointments as they assemble their administration," added President Nez.

Read at: <https://bit.ly/3fZVoXq>

## **BIDEN-HARRIS TRANSITION**

**COVID-19 ADVISORY BOARD**  
LEADING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS TO  
ADVISE THE TRANSITION ON COVID-19 RESPONSE

# NTUA expands broadband access for students, first responders using CARES Act funds

CHINLE, Ariz. — Navajo Tribal Utility Authority marked the expansion of broadband access for students, first responders and residents using CARES Act funds by completing new equipment installation on existing towers in the communities of Chinle and Tsaile/Wheatfields in Arizona.

The projects were funded with a \$32 million CARES Act allocation approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council and signed into law by President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer Aug. 16. The funds are being used to construct several more towers on the Navajo Nation because of the efforts of NTUA and other partners to meet the CARES Act deadline.



“These projects will provide long-term benefits to help families, students of all ages with online learning, first responders during emergency situations, businesses, and many others,” Nez said.

“When we work together from the local level on up, NTUA has shown that projects can be expedited and completed quickly. I commend the NTUA work crews and management for their tremendous work to make positive changes in our communities. Not only is NTUA working on broadband expansion projects, but they have also connected over 343 families to the electric grid and continue to work on developing more water resources and wastewater infrastructure during this COVID-19 pandemic.”

On Oct. 9, the Nez-Lizer Administration approved an additional \$15 million in CARES Act funds to provide more internet access. The completed projects will also benefit many Navajo students who are enrolled with Diné College and Navajo Technical University, which have campuses located in Tsaile/Wheatfields and Chinle.

“I thank everyone who laid their hands to this great work so that our Nation can move forward and continue developing our communities, expanding more opportunities for the education of our students, and increasing communication capacity for first responders. The CARES Act funds are making a difference on the Navajo Nation and we will continue to support projects that create long-term benefits for our Navajo people,” Vice President Lizer stated.

Council Delegates Carl Slater and Eugene Tso also who represent the Tsaile/Wheatfields Chapter and Chinle Chapter respectively as members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, also recognized and thanked NTUA, leadership, and others who supported funding and the implementation of the telecommunications initiatives.

Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Office Executive Director Christopher Becenti said he is excited to celebrate another milestone for telecommunications infrastructure on the Navajo Nation. He thanked all of the entities involved including the Federal Communications Commission, for working with the Navajo Nation to allow more access to spectrum usage for communities on the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority continues to make progress on water projects, electricity connections for homes, and telecommunications infrastructure with CARES Act funds.

Information provided by the Office of the President and Vice President.

Read at: <https://www.nhnews.com/news/2020/nov/17/ntua-expands-broadband-access-students-first-respo/>

# Romney, McAdams urge Pelosi to act on Navajo clean water bill amid pandemic



**PETE SANDS, UTAH NAVAJO COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAM PROJECT MANAGER, AND LORISSA JACKSON, UTAH NAVAJO HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER GUIDE, APPROACH A HOUSE TO DELIVER FOOD TO ELDERS IN OLJATO-MONUMENT VALLEY, SAN JUAN COUNTY, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020. THE NAVAJO NATION HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA COVID-19 INFECTION RATES IN THE COUNTRY. KRISTIN MURPHY, DESERET NEWS**

**By Dennis Romboy @dennisromboy Oct 30, 2020, 3:06pm MDT**

SALT LAKE CITY — Two members of Utah’s congressional delegation are urging Democratic House leaders to act on a bill that would bring clean drinking water to the Navajo Nation in Utah.

Rep. Ben McAdams, Utah’s lone Democrat in Congress, and Republican Sen. Mitt Romney sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others concerning the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act.

“As you are aware, Indian Country, and especially the Navajo Nation, has been devastated by COVID-19 in large part because of the lack of safe drinking water for essential preventative measures, such as hand-washing,” the letter reads.

Nearly 40% of the Navajo population lacks running water and adequate sanitation in their homes. The bill would provide about \$220 million for drinking water projects on the reservation.

“It is unthinkable that right here in my home state, families on the Navajo Reservation are forced to do without this crucial resource,” McAdams said.

The legislation resulted from collaboration between the state, Navajo Nation and the federal government.

“I’m glad to stand with Sen. Romney in urging for action on this important legislation,” McAdams said.

Romney said the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted the Navajo Nation in Utah, and the shortage of running water in nearly half of homes is contributing to the spread.

“People deserve to have running water, and with each day our legislation is held up by the House Democratic leadership, Utah Navajos continue to experience hardship from lack and shortage of running water,” he said.

The Senate passed the legislation earlier this year as part of a package of tribal water bills.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2020/10/30/21542622/coronavirus-covid19-navajo-nation-utah-water-mitt-romney-ben-mcadams>

# Navajo homes getting electricity with CARES Act funding



SAN JUAN COUNTY, Utah (AP) — Chastity De Guzman and her four children have lived in a home on the Navajo Nation without power since 2015. She said they had been on a waiting list for over two years when a crew finally showed up in September to connect their home to electricity.

“It was emotional,” De Guzman told KUER radio. “Electricity was, like, essential for us, and especially with the pandemic going on, it’s made things a lot easier.”

Her home in Aneth is one of 27 in Utah that have received power from the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority this fall, according to Deenise Becenti, a spokesperson for the company.

It received \$14.5 million from the Tribe’s \$714 million federal CARES Act allotment to connect 510 homes. Becenti said crews started work on the project in June, after the Tribe received \$600 million in May following legal delays. So far, she said they’ve made it to 380 houses, or about 75 a month, and there are 130 left to connect before the funding expires on Dec. 31.

To do that, crews are working 10 hours a day, seven days a week, according to Field Superintendent CJ Carl.

“We’re pushing harder,” Carl said. “The guys are sacrificing a lot of family time, pushing seven days a week.”

Becenti said the utility authority will try to find alternate funding to connect any homes that cannot be reached by the deadline.

“The Dec. 31 deadline is a big hindrance and challenge,” he said. “If the timeline was extended there is a good possibility that we would be able to connect more homes.”

The homes on the list are all within a mile of a power line, according to the utility authority’s general counsel Arash Moalemi. He said they chose those homes because of right-of-way requirements: any longer than a mile, and the utility authority would have had to go through an extensive clearance process for each connection.

The authority also received money from the CARES Act to purchase solar units for homes that aren’t close to an existing power line. Moalemi said they received 1,200 applications for that program when they opened it up earlier this fall, but were only able to purchase around 400 units because of supply chain issues. At least 24 are set to be installed in homes in Utah.

Moalemi estimates there are around 15,000 homes on the Navajo Nation without electricity.

The Tribe gave the utility authority \$147 million overall, which Moalemi said is almost three times the company’s annual budget. That money is being used to upgrade internet towers, install water cisterns and wells, set up WiFi hotspots, lay down fiber for broadband internet, and renovate wastewater treatment centers across the Nation.

In Utah, the company created WiFi hotspots at the Aneth and Mexican Water Chapter Houses, and is working on updating all of its internet towers to improve service.

Those projects are consistent with CARES Act guidelines, according to Moalemi, because they will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 on the reservation by helping people stay at home.

“This is obviously a sanitary and health issue,” he said. “And it would directly combat Covid if these families can receive water, electricity and internet at home.”

Any money the utility authority cannot spend by the end of the year will go into the Nation’s Hardship Assistance Fund in December to be distributed to individual tribal members. Online applications for hardship assistance are open until the end of November

READ MORE AT: <https://apnews.com/article/business-utah-coronavirus-pandemic-809acca6a0a25733a0d65f0bb6187272>

# Free Digital Recording for online meetings



November 29, 2020 - What should you know before recording meetings and online calls?

## **Practical Tips for Recording Phone Calls, Conversations, Meetings, and Hearings**

Using a recording device, such as a microphone, video recorder, or camera, is a helpful way to capture and preserve information about conversations, interviews, and phone calls in which you participate. It is also a good way to document what takes place in a court hearing or public meeting, whether for personal reference or later broadcast over the Internet. A number of laws affect your ability to use a recording device in these contexts. Here are some practical tips to help you avoid legal trouble when recording conversations, phone calls, meetings, and hearings.

### **Practical Tips for Recording Phone Calls and Conversations**

Check the law of your state before you record a phone call or conversation. Recording phone calls and conversations without consent may expose you to criminal and civil liability, so you will want to be aware of what is permissible before taking action. When you do your research, pay attention to your state's consent requirement -- i.e., whether one party's consent is sufficient to make recording lawful, or whether you need to get all parties' consent. For state-specific information for the fifteen most populous U.S. states and the District of Columbia, see the State Law: Recording section in this guide. For states not yet covered in this guide, see the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press' Can We Tape?

Get consent to record from all necessary parties. In many states, the consent of one party is sufficient to make recording lawful. But the legal situation becomes more uncertain when parties to a phone call are located in different states. To avoid legal problems, it is best to review the law in all states where parties to the call are located. If any party is in a state that requires the consent of all parties, it is best to get the consent of all parties to the call (regardless of their state) before recording. Even when all parties to a conversation are in a state which only requires the consent of one party, it cannot hurt (and it may help) to get consent from everyone.

Get consent on tape. The best way to document that you have obtained consent is to record the consent along with the phone call or conversation. As a practical matter, this will require (1) notifying the person you intend to record of your intent to record; (2) getting consent off-the-record; (3) starting the recording; and then (4) asking the person to confirm on-the-record that he or she consents to the recording.

November 2020

Don't be secretive. In some states, you can violate the law by recording secretly, even in a public place. Whenever possible, make it clear to those around you that you are recording. Don't hide your camera or tape recorder. Being upfront puts people on notice that they are being recorded, affords them an opportunity to object, and undercuts any argument that you are acting secretly.

You can read more about this on this page: <https://www.dmlp.org/legal-guide/practical-tips-recording-phone-calls-conversations-meetings-and-hearings>

There are many resources for free online recording. Be aware that recordings, audio and video, take up memory from your drive. An external drive will be the best place to store it for future reference and will not take memory from your current device. Here is a listing of video and audio recording applications (software) for PC's. Some applications may be trial only and require a subscription.

6 Best Free Online Audio Editors to Use by: <https://filmora.wondershare.com/video-editing-tips/free-online-audio-editor.html>

#### 1. TwistedWave Audio Editor

It is one of the most popular free online audio editor software that can be compared to the features of paid iOS and MAC audio editing tools. From a range of VST and core effects like normalizing, amplifying, speed, pitch, and more, the TwistedWave audio editor free edition supports five minutes audio clips and imports your files in mono.

#### 2. Audio Trimmer

Audio Trimmer is a free online audio editor that makes trimming audio super easy. You just need to choose the file you wish to edit and select the upload button to start editing.

#### 3. Bear Audio Tool

With an HTML 5 based audio editor, the Bear Audio Tool helps you to edit audio files without uploading it to the server. The online audio editor has a range of export options which makes it more desirable. With its own copyright free sound-effects and music library, the Bear Audio Tool fulfills all the basics of an audio editor.

#### 4. Audacity Audio Editor Online

Audacity is one of the best online audio editors that is easy to use, multi-track, and record for MAC, Windows, and other operating systems. It is an open source digital editor for audio. You can download it for free.

#### 5. Apowersoft Free Online Audio Editor

Now, editing audio is simple and easy with the Apowersoft Free Online Audio Editor. You just need to install a launcher and access the Apowersoft online audio editor with one click.

The Xbox Game Bar is included in the current Windows 10 professional updated package - If you'd like to know how to use this useful video, screen capture feature - Here's a link to explore any questions you may have.<https://www.theverge.com/2020/4/21/21222533/record-screen-pc-windows-laptop-xbox-game-bar-how-to>

Mac users also have have free recording software: QuickTime Player can do new movie recordings when you look under the file menu.

There are many options to allow recording but make sure you announce to the group that you are recording.

# National Urban League v. Ross

The National Urban League is leading a coalition of counties, cities, advocacy organizations, and individuals in a challenge to the Trump administration's decision to abandon the U.S. Census Bureau's Covid-19 plans and rush the data-collection and data-processing timelines for the 2020 Census. This case is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

LAST UPDATED: October 27, 2020

PUBLISHED: August 14, 2020

## Summary

The National Urban League is leading a coalition of counties, cities, advocacy organizations, and individuals in a challenge to the Trump administration's decision to abandon the U.S. Census Bureau's Covid-19 plans and rush the data-collection and data-processing timelines for the 2020 Census. The plaintiffs argue that the truncated timelines will lead to undercounts of communities of color and result in inaccurate census results in violation of the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act.

This case is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

## Case Background

The Covid-19 pandemic has substantially disrupted the 2020 Census, resulting in months of suspended operations and significant delays in crucial counting processes. Due to the pandemic, in April 2020, the Census Bureau implemented a Covid-19 plan that delayed the timeline for completing its operations in order to provide the Bureau with adequate time to ensure the quality and accuracy of 2020 Census data.

But on August 3, 2020, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham reversed course and announced that the Census Bureau would be abandoning its Covid-19 plan, cutting its counting operations short, and rushing completion of the 2020 Census. That decision forces the Census Bureau to complete at least 7.5 months of data-collection and data-processing work in 4.5 months when Bureau experts have concluded that such rushed processing will significantly undermine the quality of the 2020 Census.

The Brennan Center, along with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Public Counsel, and the law firm Latham & Watkins filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California against Secretary Ross, the Department of Commerce, the Census Bureau, and Director Dillingham. We represent the National Urban League; the League of Women Voters; the Black Alliance for Just Immigration; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Navajo Nation; the Gila River Indian Community; Harris County, Texas; King County, Washington; the city of San Jose, California; and two commissioners on the Harris County Commissioners Court. Joining the challenge are also the City of Los Angeles, the City of Salinas, the City of Chicago, the County of Los Angeles, and the Gila River Indian Community, represented by separate counsel.

The plaintiffs contend that the Administration's decision to abandon the Census Bureau's Covid-19 plans violates the Bureau's constitutional duty to make census-related decisions that "bear a reasonable relationship to the accomplishment of an actual enumeration of the population." The plaintiffs also allege that the decision is arbitrary and capricious in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act because the Bureau has not provided an explanation for why it decided to cut 2020 Census operations short, and further allege that the real reason for the decision is so that President Trump can try to implement his plan announced July 21, 2020, to exclude undocumented people from the state-population totals used to apportion the U.S. House of Representatives.

The plaintiffs are asking the court to declare that the rush plan violates the Constitution and federal law. The plaintiffs are also seeking a court order preventing the Census Bureau from implementing the rush plan, thereby requiring the Bureau to continue implementing its Covid-19 plan. The Covid-19 plan included delaying the deadlines for reporting the state-population totals to the President from December 31, 2020, to April 30, 2021, and for reporting redistricting numbers to the states from March 31, 2021, to July 31, 2021.

On September 5, 2020, the court granted the plaintiffs' motion for a temporary restraining order, enjoining the Administration from implementing the rush plan until the court could conduct a hearing on the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction.

On September 24, 2020, the court granted the plaintiffs' preliminary injunction motion, finding that "Defendants failed to consider how Defendants would fulfill their statutory and constitutional duties to accomplish an accurate count on such an abbreviated timeline," in violation of the federal Administrative Procedure Act. The court's order prevents the Census Bureau from operating on the timeline it laid out in its rush plan, including its plan to end field operations on September 30 and report state-population totals to the president by December 31, 2020.

The federal government appealed the district court's decision to the Ninth Circuit. Its appeal included requests for an emergency administrative stay of the district court's order and a stay pending the Ninth Circuit resolving the appeal. On September 30, 2020, the Ninth Circuit rejected the Administration's request for an administrative stay. On October 7, 2020, the Ninth Circuit partially denied and partially granted the request for a stay.

Under the Ninth Circuit's order, the count had to continue until October 31, 2020. The federal government appealed the lower court decisions to the Supreme Court. On October 13, 2020, the Supreme Court stayed the preliminary injunction in its entirety, thereby allowing the Census Bureau to cease its counting operations.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/court-cases/national-urban-league-v-ross>



# Navajo artist Emma Robbins is bringing tap water and solar power to hundreds of homes that never had it before



## EMMA ROBBINS DIRECTS THE NAVAJO WATER PROJECT AT DIG DEEP. DIG DEEP

If young Emma Robbins ever got thirsty while visiting her grandparents, she drank soda from a can — the syrupy sweet kind that was off-limits back home at her parents' house, where water flowed freely from the faucet.

"Some of the first Navajo words that I learned was how to say, 'Can I have a pop?'" she said, remembering how "exciting" it felt to ask her grandma for a drink in that way. "It was something that my grandparents always had. I think it was because it's like, 'if you want a beverage, that's what you're going to drink, because you're conserving water.'"

Robbins and her grandparents lived on the Navajo Nation, a swath of indigenous land larger than West Virginia, which stretches over an area of the southwestern US due east of the Grand Canyon, touching Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. Robbins, who grew up in Tuba City, the largest community on the reservation, had a running shower, and a tap at home. Things were different for her grandparents, who lived about 25 miles South of the city in Cameron, and had to make careful decisions about where each drop of water went every day, from washing the dishes to feeding their animals.

Their situation was not unusual then, and still today, one in three homes don't have piped water service on the Navajo Nation.



**MIA + FAMILY, 2020 | INKJET PRINT,  
ARTWORK BY EMMA ROBBINS. EMMA  
ROBBINS**



**THIMBLEZ, 2019 | ARTWORK BY EMMA  
ROBBINS, MADE FROM THIMBLES,  
THREAD, AND WOOL BLANKET SCRAPS.  
EMMA ROBBINS**

"Any issue with native nations and the federal government, things like infrastructure, like water, electricity, it's definitely rooted in broken treaties," Robbins said.

### **Robbins is an artist and a water-bearer on the Navajo Nation**

Half Jewish, half-Navajo, Robbins affectionately calls herself a "Nava-Jew."

As she grew older, she moved off the reservation to go to art school, and began working in a commercial art gallery in Chicago. It was at that point, in May 2016, that she felt called back to work on the Navajo Nation, where she grew up.

"It sort of hit a point where there was a lot going on in the world that I realized I really need to use my voice and my platform as an artist and as someone who has deep connections to the land and the reservation and fight for clean water," she said.

Robbins now directs the Navajo Water Project for Dig Deep, a nonprofit bringing running water to people across the United States who lack access.

She has made it her mission over the past four-and-a-half years to improve water access on the reservation she's from, by installing nearly 300 below-ground, 1,200-gallon water tanks, which connect people's homes on the Navajo Nation to taps and solar panels, providing them with a one month supply of running water, both hot and cold (and enough electricity to charge up their phones). The water source is then replenished each month, by Dig Deep's traveling water truck.

This Giving Tuesday, December 1, the organization is raising money for two new \$150,000 trucks, doubling every dollar donated with a 1:1 matching donation. It's part of the group's holiday drive to bring running water to 100 new families on the reservation.

### **Bringing water home during the pandemic is challenging**

During the pandemic, Robbins had to stop installing hot water systems in homes.

The number of coronavirus cases over the spring and early summer on the Navajo Nation skyrocketed, with a case rate per capita that at one point topped hard-hit New York City.

"We're not able to come together and do things like taking care of one another," Robbins said. "We can't work in families' homes. We can't interact with community members. It's just not safe."

And yet, her work is more pressing now than ever. It is near impossible for families on the reservation to quarantine, isolate, or shelter in place properly if they have to run out and stock up on water bottles at Walmart or the grocery store every few weeks.

Robbins and her team distributed 262,000 gallons of donated bottled water to 30,000 families during the early days of the pandemic. But she knew that plastic-heavy system couldn't last.

"It's not sustainable and it's not a long-term solution," she said.

### Getting creative to find COVID-safe solutions

Now, Robbins and her team at Dig Deep, working alongside other community partners in the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Water Access Coordination Group (WACG), are finding COVID-safe ways to bring more people on the Nation water access at home, for the first time, working with the Indian Health Service, tribal officials, NGOs, and universities.

"It's not just water access during COVID, it's a long-term project. And it's been really cool, because as someone from the res, I've never seen that before," she said.

One solution she and her team at Dig Deep developed to help families during the pandemic is dispatching 275 gallon, above-ground water storage tanks to people's yards, which can be refilled safely, without any face-to-face contact.

"By the end of the year, we'll do 840 of these," she said. That could benefit more than 10% of the population — upwards of 3,360 people on a Nation of roughly 332,000.

It's a major change to the Navajo Water Project system, bringing tanks to many more different areas of the reservation than before, and much more quickly, too.

### Holiday drive to reach 100 more families

The success with the above-ground tanks has created a new problem, though. Dig Deep now needs two new water tankers to be able to deliver the monthly water allotments to the tanks which are now spread far across the reservation — something they hope to fix with their donation drive on December 1.

Because of a provision baked into the pandemic CARES Act, up to \$300 of any donations made can be deducted from a person's taxable income this year, without itemizing, if they want to contribute to the cause.



**ROBBINS (LEFT) IN THE FIELD, DISTRIBUTING WATER TANKS. DIG DEEP**

"Just making sure that people can shelter in place is such a huge thing," Robbins said. "Not having running water is not something that is only during COVID. It's 24-7, 365."

### 'We're not just these unicorns'

Robbins wants people to know she's not unique. There are plenty of others out there bringing water, and other essential services, back home to the Nation.

"When we talk about 'doers,' like myself and our team members ... we're not just these unicorns," she said. "There are a lot of amazing people who are doing the work."

Robbins younger sister, for example, now works for the tribal government on the Nation, in the land department.

"We are a matrilineal society," she said. "I've always been taught this is such an

important role, to care for your sisters and to care for your family, and your elders. It's kind of this instinctual thing where we step up and say, 'this is a role of power.'"

READ MORE AT: <https://www.insider.com/navajo-artist-emma-robbins-bringing-water-to-her-reservation-2020-11>

# Bulletin Board



ALLIE YOUNG, A DINÉ WOMAN ON THE NAVAJO NATION IN ARIZONA, IS AMONG A GROUP OF NATIVE AMERICANS RIDING ON HORSEBACK TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY.  
LARRY PRICE/AP

## How The Navajo Nation Helped Flip Arizona For Democrats

November 13, 2020 1:47 PM ET

For nearly 30 years, Arizona has been a steady and unassailable red.

The Republican stronghold last voted for a Democrat for president in 1996 when Bill Clinton was reelected. Donald Trump won Arizona in 2016 by 4 points. And yet this year, despite a tight contest, The Associated Press and other news outlets including CNN, The New York Times and The Washington Post, have all called Arizona for Joe Biden.

Along with the changing demographics of the state, some analysts are pointing to the role of the Navajo Nation in pushing the state blue.

According to Vox, 60% to 90% of the Navajo Nation's roughly 67,000 eligible voters voted for Biden. Biden is currently leading in Arizona by less than 12,000 votes.

Members of the Navajo Nation often face high barriers to voting. Many people are not assigned a physical address and are unable to register to vote. Tara Benally, field director for the Rural Utah Project, described to NPR's Mary Louise Kelly about how the organization managed to register 4,000 Native American voters in Arizona.

The project worked with Google to provide GPS coordinates in lieu of physical addresses. Organizers also left thousands of Ziploc bags with voter registration forms on the doors of Native American voters to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

Hoping to increase young Native American voter turnout, Allie Young, a 30 year-old member of the Navajo Nation, started "Ride to the Polls" in October. According to The Washington Post, she led groups of voters, ranging in age from 18 to 30, 10 miles on horseback to reach polling stations in Kayenta, Ariz.

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the Navajo Nation. In May, the tribe's coronavirus infection rate became the highest in the country. It lost many elders, who carried traditions. The Navajo community is once again facing uncontrolled spread of the virus.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez told Fronteras that he looked forward to working with the Biden-Harris administration.

Reflecting on the Navajo people's unprecedented turnout, he said: "I appreciate meeting with Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in Phoenix. ... [We had] a dialogue, and I think those types of events really inspired the Native American voters to come out to the polls and cast their votes for change."

Read more at: <https://www.npr.org/sections/live-updates-2020-election-results/2020/11/13/934591289/how-the-navajo-nation-helped-flip-arizona-for-democrats>

## Wes Studi, Q'orianka Kilcher, Tatanka Means Join 'Canyon Del Muerto' 11.19.20

Wes Studi, Q'orianka Kilcher and Tatanka Means will star in "Canyon Del Muerto," the new film from writer and director Coerte Voorhees.

The movie is based on the true story of one of America's first female archaeologists, Ann Axtell Morris, who spent years uncovering civilizations in the southwest and Mexico. Axtell Morris was married to Earl Halstead Morris, who was a primary inspiration for Indiana Jones.



Jen Boyer/Brett Erickson/Terrence Clifford

The film also stars David Midthunder ("Hostiles," "Westworld"), alongside previously announced Abigail Lawrie (who plays Axtell Morris), Tom Felton (as Earl), Ewen Bremner, Bronson Webb, Elias Koteas and Val Kilmer.

"Canyon Del Muerto" is shooting on location across the southwest and the Yucatan thanks to special COVID-19 measures and safety protocols in place. It will also film in archaeological and cultural heritage sites throughout North America and Mexico in collaboration with the Navajo Nation, National Park Service and the government of Yucatan. The filmmakers say "the addition of Native American cast and the personal support of President Jonathan Nez of the Navajo Nation emphasizes the importance of telling the indigenous history of North America." President Nez is also set to cameo in the film.

Voorhees and his brother John are producing under their A Visionary Film banner, with First Line Films and The Vadar Company. Julius Elwood and John Tsosie are the film's cultural liaisons with the Navajo Nation.

Studi first appeared in "Dances With Wolves" and also played Magua in "The Last of the Mohicans." Other films include "Heat," "Avatar," "Hostiles" and "Geronimo: An American Legend."

Kilcher starred as Pocahontas opposite Colin Farrell and Christian Bale in Terrence Malick's "The New World." She currently stars in Paramount Network's "Yellowstone," and appeared in TNT's "The Alienist" and "Princess Kaiulani."

Means currently stars in Netflix's limited series "The Liberator" and "Once Upon a River." Means previously starred alongside Mark Ruffalo in HBO's limited series "I Know This Much Is True" and has appeared in series including "The Son" and "Saints & Strangers."

Kilcher is represented by APA and Anonymous Content; Studi is repped by Domain Talent and Michael Black Management; Means is repped by Amsel, Eisenstadt, Frazier & Hinojosa Talent Agency and The O'Agency; and Midthunder is represented by Linda McAlister Talent, The O'Agency and Corner Booth Entertainment.

Chris Maher is co-executive producing and Roma Kong will co-produce along with Alberto Zeni and Omar Blanco. The film's screenplay draws on Morris' two novels, "Digging in Yucatan" and "Digging in the Southwest."

Edmond and Glessna Coisson, Denny LaVia, Peter & Donna Rice Bahner, Perry Stamatis, John & Jean Savage, Charles & Nubia Benson, Mike & Jan Baum, Jake Chesney, Matt & Heather Hook, Charlie Zine, Andrew Carver, Linda & Erik Thomas, Jennifer Dutton, Mary Lou Chapa, Ed & Michael Garrett, Frank and Cherry Binetti, Daniel Nigg, Daniel Granik, Jim Cather, and Roger & Barbara Blomquist have also signed on as executive producers.

Link: <https://bit.ly/3nMnLea>

# Bulletin Board

## Object falls from sky near Dennehotso

By Krista Allen Nov. 20, 2020

TÓDINÉESHZHEE'

A piece of debris, or space junk, dropped out of the sky and landed between Dennehotso and Rock Point on Wednesday, according to Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown.



Courtesy photo | Nathaniel Brown  
This object crashed to the ground near Dennehotso recently.

Brown posted on Facebook Nov. 18 that Dennehotso

Chapter officials reported to the Navajo Police Department that an object landed about 1,200 from his house while he was away in Tónaneesdizí.

The object appeared to have large solar panels with an orange parachute.

Dennehotso Chapter Vice President Tully Begay told The Arizona Republic that he received calls from relatives saying they witnessed the crash and captured it on photo and on video around 1 p.m. that day.

The Navajo Police Department confirmed officers responded to the area after receiving reports about the object.

"The Navajo Police Department was notified by a resident in the area that an object had fallen from the sky," Christina Tsosie, the spokesperson for Navajo PD, told the Navajo Times on Friday afternoon. "The Navajo Police Department responded to the call and observed a satellite had crash-landed in a remote area in Dennehotso."

Tsosie said "the satellite material" was released to employees with Colorado-based Polar Field and there were no injuries nor property damage, and the cause of the crash is unknown.

Brown, who represents Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, and Tódinéeshzhee', was suspicious of the incident and asked if the federal government is keeping the Navajo Nation under surveillance.

"Why?" Brown asked. "There's a lot of unanswered questions and incidents like these just fuel our distrust in the federal government. But we as (Navajo Nation) Council leadership will do everything we can to protect our people."

Read at: <https://navajotimes.com/reznews/object-falls-from-sky-near-dennehotso/>

## School buses deliver assignments to students on Navajo Nation



NAVAJO NATION (KRQE) – Instead of taking students to school, buses on the Navajo Nation are taking school to students. Many homes in the community on the eastern edge of the Navajo Nation have no electricity or running water, let alone internet access and that creates a challenge in the age of remote learning.

The Cuba Independent School District has found a way to deliver schoolwork to its students living in that area. Buses are making the rounds with supplies and USB drives containing all the teachers' assignments. "I can use this to plug into my computer. And it shows me the files of all the teachers and all the assignments and I just go through and I choose my teachers and my classes," said senior at Cuba high School Cyliss Castillo.

Staff even cleaned out students lockers and sent their belongings home by bus.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.krqe.com/news/education/school-buses-deliver-assignments-to-students-on-navajo-nation/>

## Navajo Nation President wants priority for COVID-19 vaccine for his community

NAVAJO NATION – The CDC is expected to meet Tuesday to finalize their recommendations of whom should receive the first rounds of a COVID-19 vaccine, and how many vaccines will be shipped where.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, who saw his community hit hard by the novel coronavirus and worked to distribute supplies, support, and testing to the farthest edges of the Navajo Nation, wants his community to be among the first to get the vaccine.

"It has taken over 630 of our Navajo people's lives," he said in an interview with ABC15 on Monday.

READ MORE AT: <https://www.abc15.com/news/region-northern-az/navajo-nation-president-wants-priority-for-covid-19-vaccine-for-his-community>

**PERSONNEL NEWS -- DCD OPEN POSITIONS**

POSITION TITLE	LOCATION	PAY RATE	CLOSING DATE
<b>Administrative Service Centers</b>			
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Lake, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Klagetoh, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Crystal, NM	25,854.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Rock Springs, NM	36,462.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Black Mesa, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Community Services Coordinator (S)	Hardrock, AZ	36,462.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Alamo, NM	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Becenti, NM	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Mesa, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Red Valley, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Gadiiahi, NM	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Kaibeto, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Coalmine Canyon, AZ	25,854.40	OUF
Accounts Maintenance Specialist (S)	Navajo Mountain, AZ	25,854.40	OUF

(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**



# Navajo Nation Census Information Center News

## Facts for Features: American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: November 2020

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

RELEASE NUMBER CB20-FF.08

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. The event culminated an effort by Red Fox James, a member of the Blackfeet Nation who rode across the nation on horseback seeking approval from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians. More than seven decades later, then-President George H.W. Bush in 1990 signed a joint congressional resolution designating the month of November "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued every year since 1994 to recognize what is now called "American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month." This Facts for Features presents statistics for American Indians and Alaska Natives, one of the six major race categories defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The following facts are possible thanks to responses to the U.S. Census Bureau's surveys. We appreciate the public's cooperation as we continuously measure America's people, places and economy.

### Did You Know?

#### 6.9 million

The nation's American Indian and Alaska Native population alone or in combination with other race groups in 2019.

Source: web  
Vintage 2019 Population Estimates  
Fastest-Growing American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Populations

#### 10.1 million

The projected American Indian and Alaska Native population alone or in combination with other race groups on July 1, 2060. They would constitute 2.5% of the total population.

Source: web  
2017 National Population Projections

#### 324

The number of distinct federally recognized American Indian reservations in 2019, including federal reservations and off-reservation trust land.

Source:  
U.S. Gazetteer Files

#### 574

The number of federally recognized Indian tribes in 2020.

Source: web  
Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
2019

#### 142,972

The number of single-race American Indian and Alaska Native veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in 2019.

Source:  
2019 American Community Survey

### More Stats

See a detailed profile of the American Indian and Alaska Native population, alone or in combination with one or more other races, from the 2019 American Community Survey. Statistics include:

Families  
Housing  
Languages  
Education

Jobs  
Income and Poverty  
Health Insurance

### Related News Products

My Tribal Area Data Tool

Webinar: Accessing Detailed Statistics on Race, Hispanic Origin, and Ancestry Groups

READ MORE AT: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2020/aian-month.html>

**Census History Timeline**

**1790**  
 Thomas Jefferson becomes the first Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior.  
 The first U.S. Census is conducted in 1790, with a population of 3,929,211.

**1800**  
 John Marshall becomes the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.  
 The second U.S. Census is conducted in 1800, with a population of 5,308,013.

**1810**  
 Robert Smith becomes the first Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior.  
 The third U.S. Census is conducted in 1810, with a population of 7,260,112.

**1820**  
 John Quincy Adams becomes the first Vice President of the U.S.  
 The fourth U.S. Census is conducted in 1820, with a population of 9,638,003.

**1830**  
 Martin Van Buren becomes the first Vice President of the U.S.  
 The fifth U.S. Census is conducted in 1830, with a population of 12,866,022.

**1840**  
 William Augustus Weaver becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The sixth U.S. Census is conducted in 1840, with a population of 17,063,353.

**1850**  
 Joseph C. Kennedy becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The seventh U.S. Census is conducted in 1850, with a population of 23,193,976.

**1860**  
 Joseph C. Kennedy becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The eighth U.S. Census is conducted in 1860, with a population of 31,443,333.

**1870**  
 Francis Amasa Walker becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The ninth U.S. Census is conducted in 1870, with a population of 38,552,717.

**1880**  
 Charles M. Mason becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The tenth U.S. Census is conducted in 1880, with a population of 50,193,293.

**1890**  
 Robert Peckoff Parker becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The eleventh U.S. Census is conducted in 1890, with a population of 62,979,746.

**1900**  
 William Earl Morrison becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The twelfth U.S. Census is conducted in 1900, with a population of 76,212,167.

**1910**  
 Edward Dene Deneham becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The thirteenth U.S. Census is conducted in 1910, with a population of 92,228,096.

**1920**  
 Samuel Life Rogers becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The fourteenth U.S. Census is conducted in 1920, with a population of 106,023,297.

**1930**  
 William Mott Stewart becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The fifteenth U.S. Census is conducted in 1930, with a population of 122,992,021.

**1940**  
 James Clyde Capt becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The sixteenth U.S. Census is conducted in 1940, with a population of 132,429,033.

**1950**  
 Roy Viner Pool becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The seventeenth U.S. Census is conducted in 1950, with a population of 152,268,708.

**1960**  
 Robert Miller Burgess becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The eighteenth U.S. Census is conducted in 1960, with a population of 179,329,707.

**1970**  
 George Lee Brown becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The nineteenth U.S. Census is conducted in 1970, with a population of 203,391,841.

**1980**  
 Vincent F. Barabba becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The twentieth U.S. Census is conducted in 1980, with a population of 226,542,600.

**1990**  
 Thomas Everett Bryant becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The twenty-first U.S. Census is conducted in 1990, with a population of 248,709,872.

**2000**  
 Kenneth Frensis becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The twenty-second U.S. Census is conducted in 2000, with a population of 281,421,906.

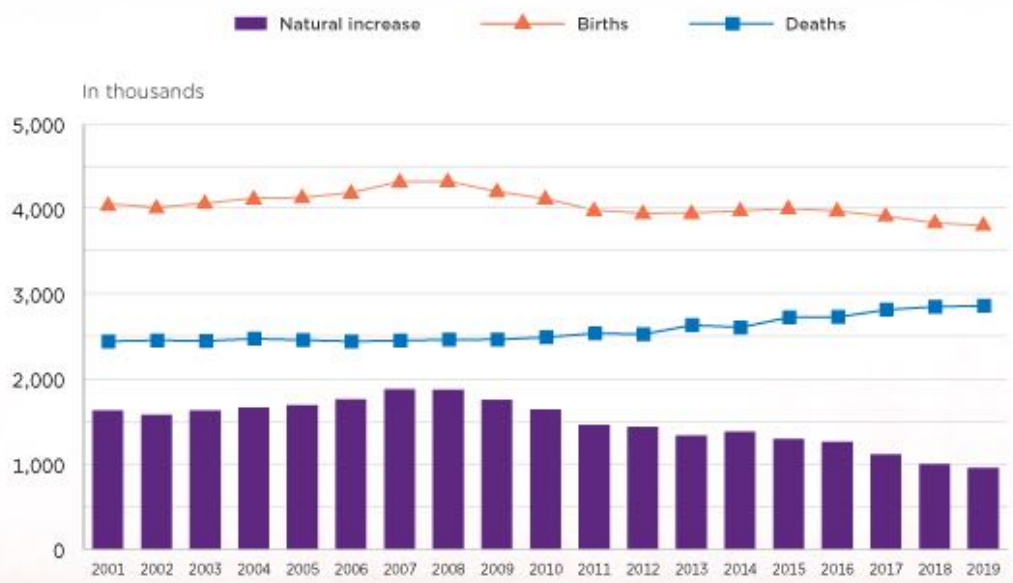
**2010**  
 Robert M. Groves becomes the first Commissioner of the U.S. Census Bureau.  
 The twenty-third U.S. Census is conducted in 2010, with a population of 308,745,538.

**2020**  
 The twenty-fourth U.S. Census is scheduled for 2020, with a population of 330,222,422.

# Slower Growth for Nation's Population

Natural increase drops below 1 million for the first time in decades.

Births, Deaths and Natural Increase for the United States: 2001 to 2019



# Happy New Year 2020



**U.S. POPULATION**  
 330,222,422

**WORLD POPULATION**  
 7,621,018,958

Visit [www.census.gov/popclock](http://www.census.gov/popclock) for more information.



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

Note: Population estimates as of Jan. 1, 2020.  
 Source: Vintage 2018 Population Estimates and International Data Base





# Navajo Nation Dikos Ntsaaígíí-19 (COVID-19)



Last Updated: November 29, 2020

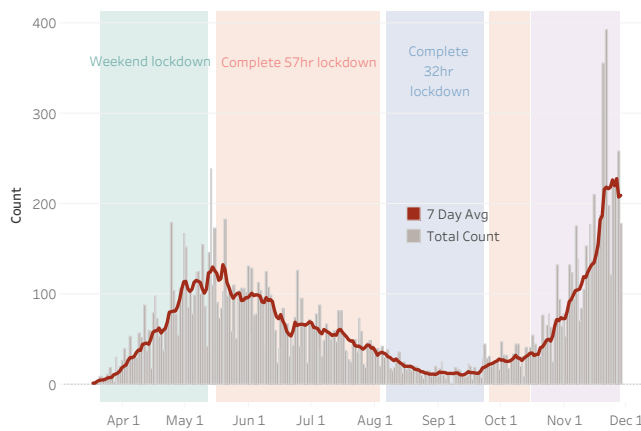
## Navajo Nation Residents

<b>Total Confirmed Cases<sup>1</sup></b> <b>16,427</b> New Cases from Last Update: <b>177</b>	<b>Total Recovered</b> <b>8,676</b>	<b>Total Confirmed Deaths</b> <b>653</b> New Death(s) Reported: <b>5</b>
<b>Total Tests Completed<sup>2</sup></b> <b>157,860</b>	<b>Total Positive Tests<sup>3</sup></b> <b>20,264</b>	<b>Total Negative Tests</b> <b>131,548</b>

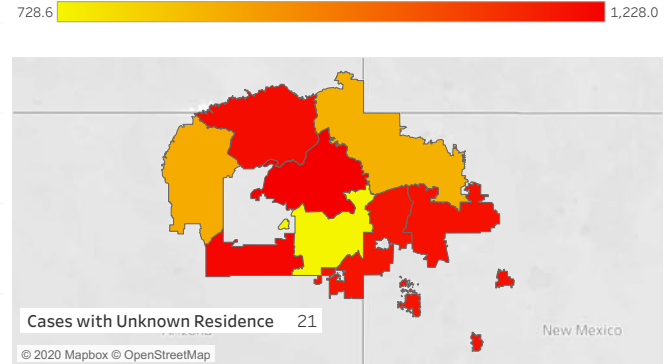
## Service Area Confirmed Cases

Bordertown	Chinle	Crownpoint	Ft. Defiance	Gallup	Kayenta	Shiprock	Tuba City	Winslow
4,463	3,354	1,802	1,699	2,672	1,712	2,516	1,670	981

Daily Confirmed Cases on Navajo Nation in All

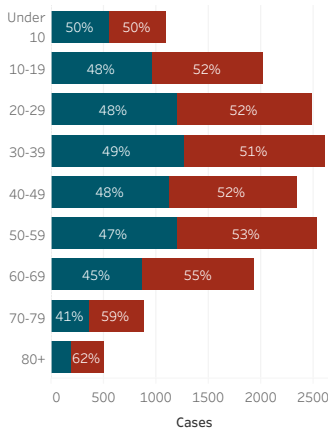


Navajo Nation Service Area Rates per 10,000 population

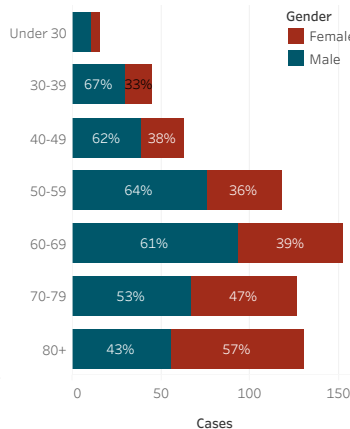


\*Click on service area to display more information. Click outside service area to display Navajo Nation information. Ramah is included with Gallup service area and Alamo, Tohajilee are included with Crownpoint service area.

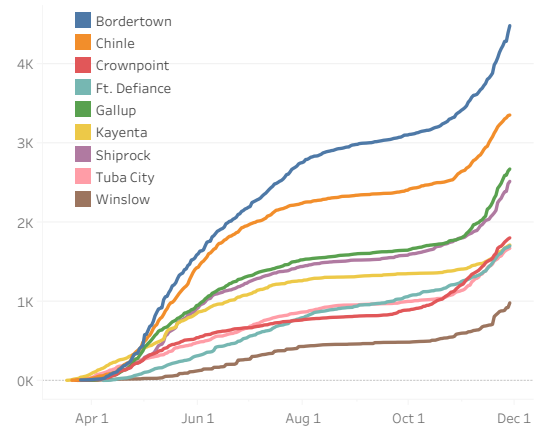
COVID-19 by Age Groups



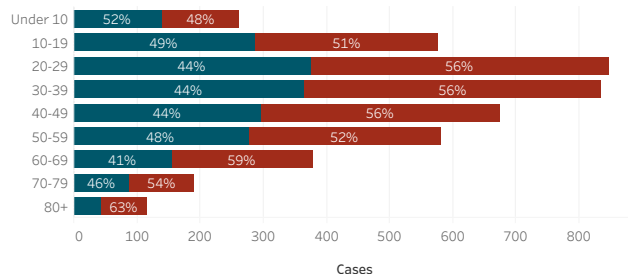
COVID-19 Deaths by Age Groups



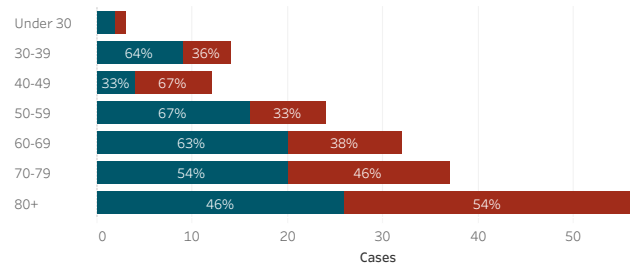
Total Count of Cases since March



Bordertown COVID-19 by Age Groups



Bordertown COVID-19 Deaths by Ages Groups





**Give "staying home" a new meaning.**

**Connect with your home in nature. Stay home to save a life.**

**#Coronavirus**

**#WellnessWarriors**

**[caih.jhu.edu](http://caih.jhu.edu)**





# KNOW YOUR RISK THIS THANKSGIVING



## Thanksgiving Activities by COVID-19 Risk Level

<b>Lower Risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dinner with people you live with</li> <li>• Delivering meals to family members without contact</li> <li>• Virtual dinners and sharing recipes with family and friends</li> <li>• Shopping online for Black Friday</li> <li>• Watching football, parades, or movies at home</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small outdoor dinner with people you do not live with</li> <li>• Visiting other large gatherings (pumpkin patches, fall festivals, parades)</li> </ul>
<b>Higher Risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shopping in crowded stores</li> <li>• Attending large dinners with people you do not live with</li> <li>• Traveling off the Navajo Nation</li> <li>• Using alcohol or drugs make it harder to practice safety measures</li> <li>• Wearing no mask, not practicing social distancing, not washing your hands, or cleaning high-touched areas</li> </ul>

**DIKOS NTSAAÍGÍI-19**  
CORONAVIRUS

NAVAJO HEALTH COMMAND OPERATIONS CENTER  
(P) 928.871.7014  
(E) coronavirus.info@nndoh.org  
www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19



# DON'T INVITE COVID-19 TO THANKSGIVING



The safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year is to celebrate with people you live with.

Gathering with other family members and friends is fun but it can increase the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu.



Stay home with people you live with



Celebrate with a phone call/video call



Do not gather with people you do not live with

**DIKOS NTSAAÍGÍI-19**  
CORONAVIRUS

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www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19





**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS  
HELP DEALING WITH STRESS OR THE  
EMOTIONAL EFFECTS OF COVID-19  
HERE ARE SOME RESOURCES:**

Navajo residents can also call  
**Navajo Regional Behavioral Health Center** at  
(505) 368-1438 or  
(505) 368-1467, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Monday-Friday (MDT)



After 5 p.m., Monday - Friday (MDT)

Chinle Region:

(928) 551-0713

Dilkon and Tuba City Region:

(928) 551-0624

Farmington, Kirtland, and Shiprock Region:

(928) 551-0508

Shiprock and Red Mesa Region:

(928) 551-0394

**DIKOS NTSAAÍGÍÍ-19**  
CORONAVIRUS



    
@navajodephealth  
#DineDabidziil

Navajo Health Command Operations Center  
(928) 871-7014  
coronavirus.info@nndoh.org  
www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19



# Happy Thanksgiving

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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