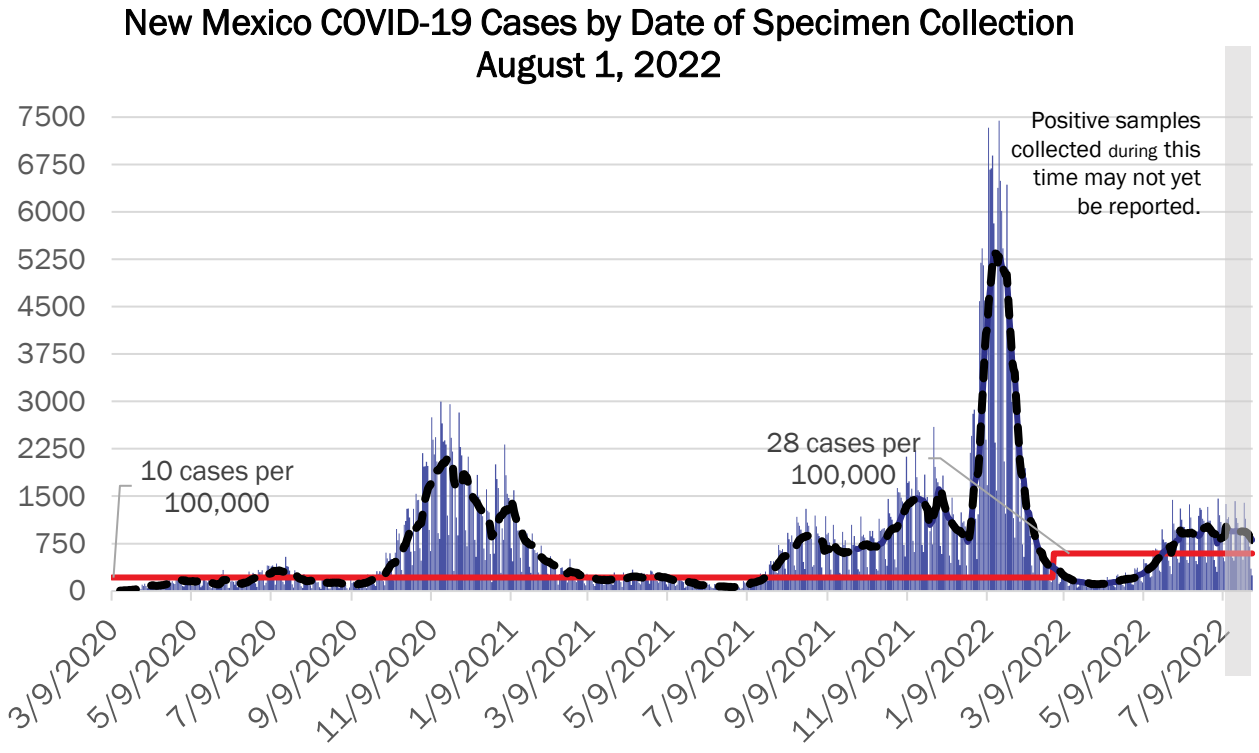
COVID-19 Day 877 Press Update

August 4, 2022

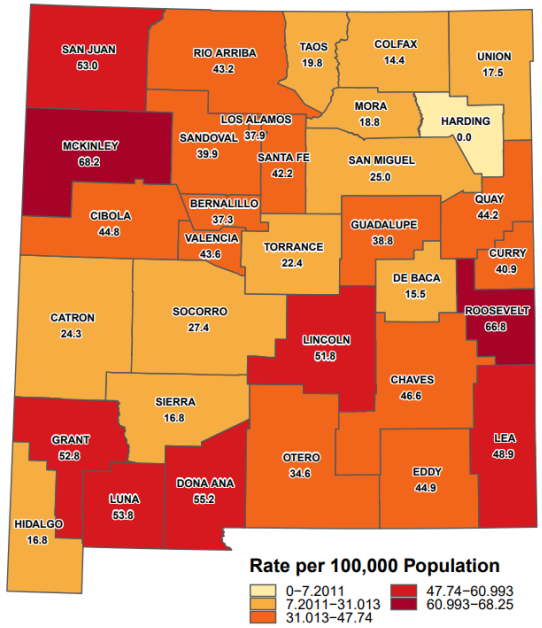
David R. Scrase, M.D., M.H.S.A.
DOH Acting Secretary

Laura C. Parajón, M.D., M.P.H.
DOH Deputy Secretary and Acting State Epidemiologist

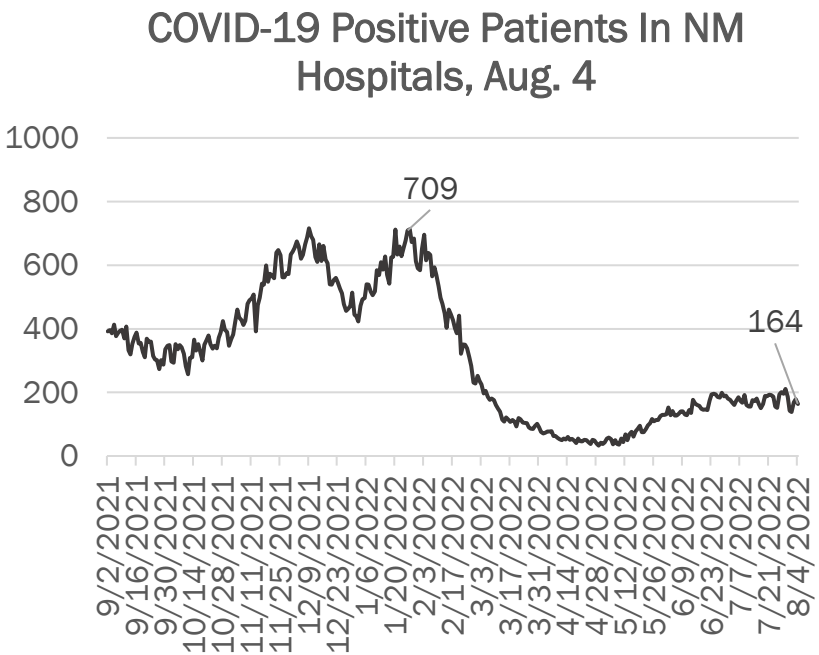
New Mexico COVID-19 case have plateaued

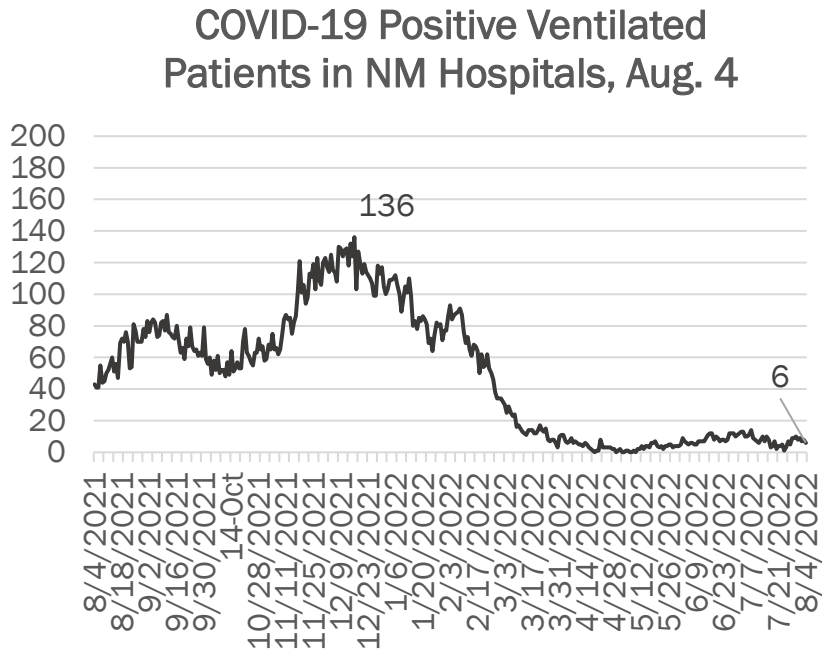


Average daily case rate per 100,000 population in the previous 7 days by New Mexico County (07/25/2022 - 07/31/2022)



COVID-19-related hospitalizations have plateaued (3.6% on ventilation)





NMDOH
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

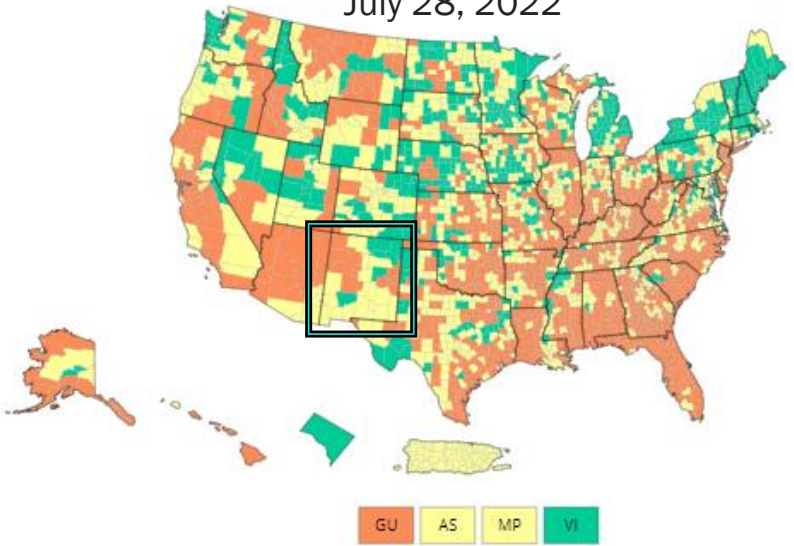
Total Deaths:	8,257	Deaths in the Last 14 Days:	32

August 1st Mortality Report: https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/COVID-19-Mortality-Rates-Public-Report_07.26.2022.pdf

CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels

- CDC reports weekly on community levels.
- NM has areas that are green, yellow, and orange in last week's report.
- CDC recommends certain personal protective measures based on COVID-19 Community Levels.

COVID-19 Community Levels in US by County
July 28, 2022



NM COVID-19 Community Level	Week 07/20/22-07/26/22 # of NM Counties (%)
Low	7 (21.2%)
Medium	15 (45.5%)
High	11 (33.3%)

You can take prevention steps based on your COVID-19 Community Level

Low	Medium	High
• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Guest tested if you have symptoms	• If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms	• Wear a mask indoors in public • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms • Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for server illness

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. Masks are recommended in indoor public transportation settings and may be required in other places by local or state authorities.

If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease, learn more about how to protect yourself with additional CDC recommendations for each COVID-19 Community Level: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_47145

New Mexicans ≥6 months are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine

- Back to school for children: The vaccine helps children's natural immune system protect against COVID-19 so they can stay in school and do their regular activities.
- The COVID-19 vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines.
- Additional protection is provided by booster vaccines.
- Visit vaccinenm.org or vaccines.gov to book an appointment today or schedule an appointment with your primary care provider or a pharmacy.

Novavax rollout is underway

- Novavax is a protein-based vaccine that uses pieces of the spike protein on the coronavirus to build antibodies that can prevent COVID-19 from infecting cells and causing illness.
- Novavax was granted Emergency Use Approval (EUA) by the FDA on July 13th, 2022.
- President Biden's Administration has bought 3.2 million doses of the Novavax vaccine.
- The vaccine will be available for people ages 18+ and consists of 2 doses, given 3-4 weeks apart.
- 13 NM providers have ordered Novavax.
- It is an option on vaccinenm.org.

https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/13/health/novavax-covid-vaccine-fda-authorization/index.html

Vaccine for COVID-19 Omicron Variant may be available soon

- Omicron specific booster shots may be available as early as September 2022.
- Contains the original COVID-19 and Omicron strains.
- May have more long-lasting immunity.
- Still need FDA approval and CDC recommendation.
- President Biden's Administration has purchased 171 million doses for use in fall and winter.
- Current vaccines and boosters still offer protection against new variants.

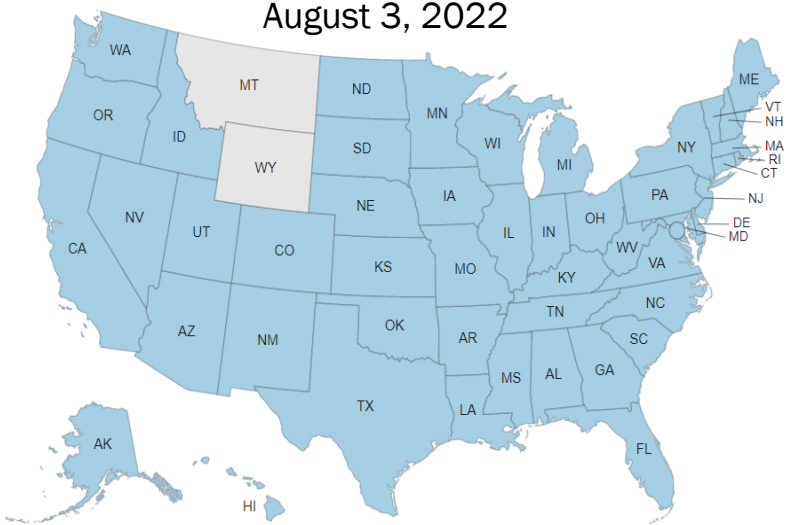
Our community is safer when we do our part.

- Know the COVID-19 Community Level where you live.
  - Follow the CDC guidance for Low, Medium and High levels.
- Get vaccinated.
  - Stay up-to-date on vaccines and boosters.
- Get tested.
  - At the first sign of symptoms.
- Get treated.
  - Seek treatment right away, even if you have one risk factor.
- Get a well-fitting mask.
  - Masks are effective and provide an extra layer to safeguard.

Monkeypox cases in the US and NM

- Monkeypox is a viral infection in the same family as smallpox.
  - It does not usually cause serious illness.
  - However, monkeypox can result in painful lesions or sores but rarely results in hospitalization or death (0 deaths in US).
- Monkeypox spreads through close physical contact between two people, and anybody can get monkeypox – regardless of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity.

Total confirmed monkeypox/orthopoxvirus cases in the US: 6,617
Cases in New Mexico: 10
August 3, 2022



How Monkeypox is spread:

- Monkeypox can spread to anyone through:
  - Direct contact with monkeypox rash or scabs on a person's skin
  - Contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, towels), and surfaces used by someone with monkeypox
  - Respiratory secretions during prolonged face-face contact
  - Sexual or intimate contact, including kissing, massage, or talking closely
- Monkeypox **NOT** spread through:
  - Casual conversation
  - Walking by someone with monkeypox

Early symptoms of monkeypox will be followed by a rash of fluid-filled blisters in one to three days.

Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network

Symptoms to watch for:

- Symptoms of monkeypox include rashes, bumps, or blisters (which can look similar to syphilis, herpes, or even common skin ailments such as poison ivy), along with fever and headaches, muscle aches, and swollen lymph nodes.
- Rashes or bumps often occur in the genital or peri-anal area and may take place without fever or other flu-like symptoms.
- Symptoms typically start 1-2 weeks after exposure to the virus.
- Monkeypox can continue spreading from symptom onset until all sores or blisters have healed, and a fresh layer of skin has formed, roughly 2-4 weeks.

Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network

How do I test for Monkeypox?

If you think you may have Monkeypox:

- Visit your healthcare provider or Public Health Clinic.
- Avoid close contact with other people until you know if you do or do not have Monkeypox.
- For more information visit nmheath.org and click on the Monkeypox updates tab.

Monkeypox vaccinations for high-risk New Mexicans ramping up this week

- Vaccinations are being scheduled and prioritized by those assessed with the highest risk factors as identified by the CDC:
  - Known contacts who are identified by public health via case investigation, contact tracing, and risk exposure assessments.
    - If you are a contact of someone who has Monkeypox.
  - You are in a high-risk group.
  - No vaccinations will be administered without an appointment.

Monkeypox vaccination in NM

- NM has a limited supply of the JYNNEOS vaccine:
  - 956 doses available as of Aug. 2, 2022.
  - 2,600 more doses are coming Aug. - Oct.
    - Two doses, given four weeks apart.
    - Second dose administration may be delayed to allow for more people to be vaccinated.
- If you are at risk for monkeypox and are interested in a vaccine, call:
  - NMDOH Call Center at 1-855-600-3453