

DERRICK J. LENTE

Democrat for New Mexico House District 65

A Message From Your State Representative



It's been three weeks since my last mailer to you about the dramatic impact of COVID-19 on our communities. Sadly, since that time, we've all borne witness to how this insidious virus is impacting our families, our communities and our very way of life. What we are facing is daunting, but I am heartened by the moments of triumph in everyday acts of courage, humanity and love. Although these are trying times for us all, I remain optimistic that our communities and ways of life will soon thrive once again.

*You are welcome to call
me at (505) 507-3063
or email me at
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I remain committed to reaching out several times per week with your local Town, Pueblo or Tribal leadership should they have any questions or concerns. I am also here for you. You are welcome to call me at (505) 507-3063 or email me at info@derrickjlente.com. Most importantly, if you are experiencing any symptoms or have any health questions, please call the State of New Mexico's Coronavirus Hotline at (855) 600-3453.

Respectfully,
Representative Derrick J. Lente



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Information and Resources on COVID-19

New Mexico Coronavirus Hotline

- Coronavirus Health Hotline 1-855-600-3453
- Coronavirus Information Hotline 1-833-551-0518

State Resources

- New Mexico State Department of Health: <https://cv.nmhealth.org>
- State of New Mexico: www.newmexico.gov
- Resources for Seniors and People with Disabilities: www.nmaging.state.nm.us
- Resources for Impacted Businesses: gonm.biz/about-us/covid-19-response
- Resources for Impacted Workers: www.dws.state.nm.us/COVID-19-Info

School Districts serving students in House District 65

- Bernalillo Public Schools: <https://www.bernalillo-schools.org>
- Jemez Valley Public Schools: <http://www.jvps.org>

- Dulce Independent Schools: <https://www.dulceschools.com>
- Cuba Independent Schools: <http://cuba.k12.nm.us>
- Santa Fe Indian School: <https://www.sfis.k12.nm.us>

Meal Programs and Services

SENIORS & DISABLED ADULTS MEALS

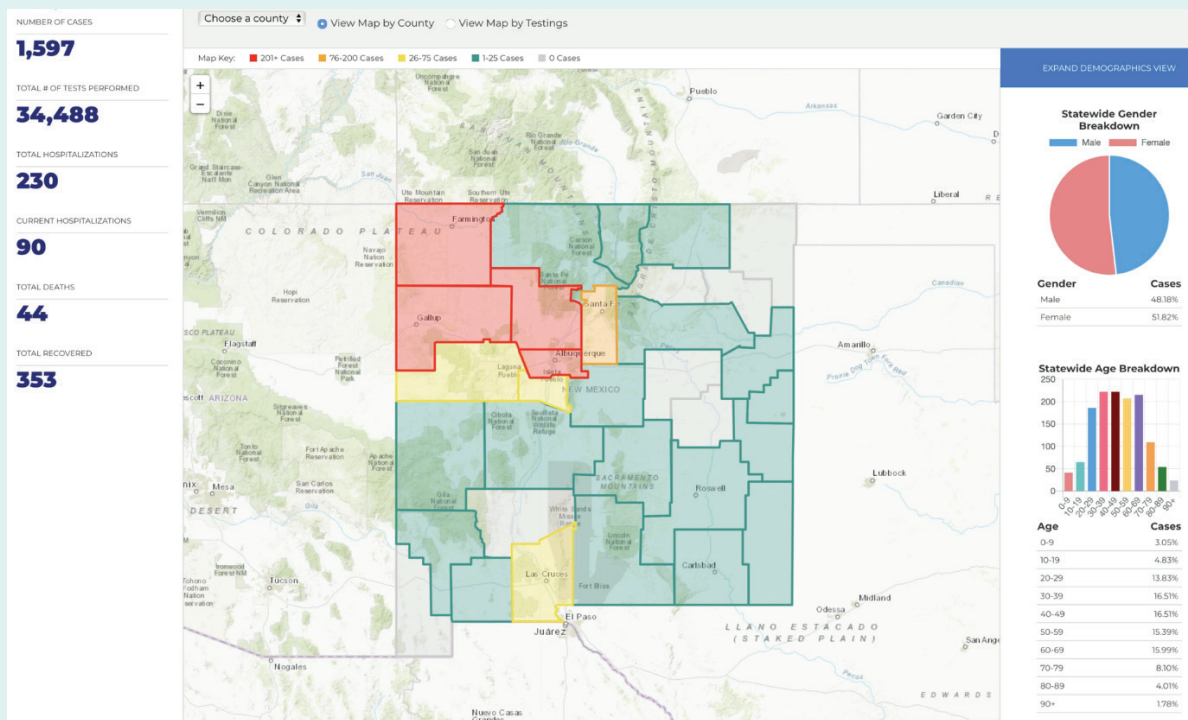
- Senior & Disabled Adults Food Access Hotline: 1-800-432-2080
- Seniors living on Tribal or Pueblo lands Hotline: 1-800-432-2080
- For Seniors living on the Navajo Nation Hotline: 1-928-871-6868.

SCHOOL MEALS

- Information on Grab & Go Meals for our children can be found at: <https://www.newmexico.gov/education/meal-sites-for-children/>

County Specific COVID-19 Statistics Website

The state of New Mexico has launched a portal with more COVID-19 data specific to positive cases and testing in the state. The data dashboard currently includes county-by-county breakdowns of positive cases by age, gender and ethnicity. The state plans to update the data at least twice weekly. <https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/public-dashboard.html>



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New Mexico Crisis and Access Line

These times of uncertainty can be trying for many that struggle with behavioral health issues. Even for those that may never have dealt with such emotions, I am happy the state of New Mexico has launched NMConnect. NMConnect is a new phone app that provides free 24-hour crisis and non-crisis support and access to behavioral health professionals who can text or talk via phone with individuals needing a listening ear or referrals to longer-term support. The app links users to the New Mexico Crisis Access Line (NMCAL), which provides safety net services statewide. For those that may not have access to mobile phone apps, NMCAL is still available via phone 24/7 toll-free by calling 1-855-NMCRISIS (1-855-662-7474).

The NMConnect app will help close gaps in access to behavioral health services by providing direct contact to professionals. NMConnect also provides resources including self-care tips for people in recovery from substance use and other behavioral health challenges, and information on COVID-19 and New Mexico's response. The NMConnect app, available now for iPhone and Android, includes a "one touch" button for connection to a mental health professional on the State of New Mexico's 24-hour crisis and access hotline. For non-crisis support, including help finding a therapist or support group, or to just to engage with someone that has been there, the "Text Warmline" option connects people to a certified peer support specialist for non-emergency support (available from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.) and a "Call Warmline" option is available for peer to peer phone conversations with someone in recovery from their own mental health diagnosis, (available from 3:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.). All are accessible via the app from any cellular smartphone.

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2020 Primary Election Update

On Tuesday, April 14, 2020 the New Mexico Supreme Court rejected a petition to conduct New Mexico's June 2, 2020 primary election solely by mail.

The Supreme Court acknowledged the state is in the midst of a public health crisis and that voting by mail is the safest option. But justices nonetheless ruled unanimously that the state's high court does not have the authority to change state law and allow ballots to be sent automatically to all voters eligible to participate in the primary.

Instead, justices have ordered the Secretary of State's Office or county clerks to send an application for an absentee ballot to every registered primary voter in the state. Voters will have to complete those ballot applications and send them in to their county clerk's office in order to receive an absentee ballot in the mail.

In-person voting will still be an option. The justices ordered all in-person voting, early voting or on election day, must comply with the state's ongoing public health orders.

In short, your votes matter and they will be counted. What is important is we all be conscious about our personal safety and the safety of our families. If absentee voting is an option, please exercise that option.



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