



Jackie McKinney, Mayor

Linda Garcia, District 1 Councilor
Allan Landavazo, District 2 Councilor
Yogash Kumar, District 3 Councilor
Fran Palochak, District 4 Councilor

Maryann Ustick, City Manager
Curtis G. Hayes, City Attorney



March 17, 2020

RE: Department of Health Order on “mass gatherings”

Dear business owners and non-profit organizations:

As you may be aware, the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health has issued two “Public Health Emergency Orders” in the last week. The orders prohibit what the Secretary is calling “mass gatherings.” The definition of mass gathering in the order is “any public or private gathering that brings together one hundred (100) or more individuals in a single room or connected space in close proximity to one another, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theaters, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space . . .” There are several exemptions from the ban including shopping malls, retail and grocery stores, restaurants, bars, and churches. Restaurants, bars, and other food service establishments are not allowed to “operate at no greater than fifty percent of maximum occupancy.” Attached a copy of the Health Department’s two orders that spell out the restrictions and exemptions in greater detail.

As part of the City of Gallup’s efforts to proactively address the spread of Coronavirus, we are contacting businesses and non-profit organizations which have facilities large enough to sponsor events with more than 100 attendees to alert them to the Health Department ban. We ask that you please consider the health risks when planning any gathering, regardless of size.

Information on preventive measures that entities such as yours can take to help prevent the spread of this disease can be obtained from the New Mexico Health Department’s website at <http://cv.nmhealth.org/>. The Health Department has also set up a call center to address questions about Coronavirus which can be reached at 1-855-600-3451. Gallup Indian Medical Center has set up an information service to answer questions about Coronavirus that can be reached at 1-505-726-5897 or 1-505-726-5888. Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services has a similar line at 1-505-236-1074.

Sincerely,

Jesus “Chuy” Morales
Chief, Gallup Fire Dept.