



3/31/2020

Dear Friend,

I know now is a time of considerable uncertainty. Our families and small businesses are wondering how they will move forward through this crisis. I share these concerns and understand it is my responsibility to support New Mexicans.

Small businesses and working Americans are the cornerstones of our local economies and communities. Family-owned businesses, laborers, artists, 'gig' workers, individuals employed in the service and hospitality industries, and nonprofits are not just economic drivers - they are the individuals who show up to community bake sales and make our communities feel like home. We have a duty to support these small businesses and working Americans during this moment, which is why I'm sharing with you the resources available and the steps Congress has taken to support your families during this crisis.

### **Staying Healthy**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has [published testing guidelines](#) to help individuals and health care professionals make decisions about who needs to be tested.

[Several COVID-19 testing sites have opened in New Mexico](#), and more are expected to be accessible in the coming weeks. Each of the centers also has different criteria for testing eligibility and different hours of operation, so you should check with both the center and your health care provider before being tested.

If you're feeling unwell or for more information on testing, you can contact the New Mexico Health Department COVID-19 Hotline, which is open 24/7, at 1-855-600-3453. Note that there may be an increased volume of callers, and it may take some time to be connected.

## **New Mexico State Response**

I applaud the work of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, and health care workers across the state. New Mexicans know that when anyone suffers hardship, it affects our entire community.

As of March 24, 2020, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has ordered the state to "stay-at-home." This means that all non-essential businesses are ordered to close, and the state's non-essential workforce is required to work from home. The order is in effect until April 10. The order asks residents "to remain in their homes or places of residence except for outings absolutely necessary for health, safety, and welfare." Gatherings are restricted to five or fewer individuals.

There are some businesses that will remain open during the "stay-at-home" order, including those engaged in health care, gas stations, grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants (for take-out only), homeless shelters, and food banks.

## **Small Business**

To help small businesses through this economic crisis, Congress created the Paycheck Protection Program to support small businesses, nonprofits, and other entities with zero-fee loans of up to \$10 million. Up to 8 weeks of average payroll and other costs will be forgiven if the business retains its employees at their salary levels. Principal and interest are deferred for up to a year and all borrower fees are waived.

Additionally, small businesses and nonprofits that are eligible for an SBA economic injury disaster loan will receive a \$10,000 Emergency Economic Injury Grant within three days of applying for the loan.

If your small business or nonprofit has been impacted, you can consider applying for a loan from the Small Business Administration [here](#). You can locate your local satellite office [here](#).

You can also contact the SBA New Mexico District Office at 505-248-8225 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

## **Unemployment**

If you lost your job or lost income because of the coronavirus pandemic, you may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits. New Mexico has issued an emergency order waiving certain requirements for unemployment insurance to assist workers whose hours have been reduced or who have been laid off because of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The best way to find out if you are eligible is to apply. If you want help determining your eligibility or completing your application, [please contact the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions](#). Keep in mind that the date your application is finished determines when you will begin receiving benefits. You may also reach the department at 877-664-6984.

Unemployment Insurance assistance may apply to employees who were laid off as a result of the impact of COVID-19; workers who are self-quarantined or directed to be quarantined, or who have immediate family who is quarantined; and workers who have their hours reduced as a result of COVID-19.

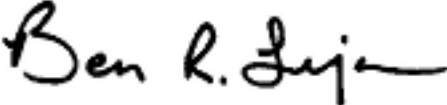
The stimulus package Congress passed last week expands the amount of unemployment benefits available to every American whose employment status has been affected by the pandemic. This includes ensuring \$600 a week in additional UI benefits and a temporary UI program for the part-time, self-employed, gig economy, and other workers excluded from regular UI programs through December 21, 2020.

Congress also passed legislation to provide states with resources and flexibility to offer unemployment benefits to laid-off and furloughed workers, as well as to workers who exhaust their paid leave.

I know there will be many questions during this period, and you have my commitment that I will keep you informed about all the actions Congress will take to support New Mexicans. Additionally, you will find a list of helpful resources to help New Mexicans get through this difficult moment below.

My team and I will continue monitoring this situation closely. If you would like to receive updates on coronavirus and other issues, current legislation, or ways my office can be helpful to you, please follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or visit my website at [lujan.house.gov](http://lujan.house.gov). **[To stay informed, you can also subscribe to my newsletter for critical updates on coronavirus.](#)**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben R. Lujan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ben Ray Luján

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For information on how to prevent the spread of illness, including resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in multiple languages, visit my [website](#).

For the latest updates from the New Mexico Department of Health, click [here](#).

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### **New Mexico Coronavirus Hotlines**

- **1-855-600-3453** (Health Hotline - for those who feel ill or have questions about their health)
- **1-833-551-0518** (General Information Hotline - for those who have non-health questions about resources and the community)
- **1-866-699-4627** (Hotline for Seniors Citizens - for eligible senior citizens who need assistance with meal or grocery delivery)
- **1-928-871-6868** (Hotline for Seniors Living on the Navajo Nation)

### **[New Mexico Coronavirus Resource Site](#)**

### **[Resources for Businesses Impacted by Coronavirus](#)**

### **[Resources for Workers Impacted by Coronavirus](#)**

### **[Meal Sites for Children](#)**

### **[Ways You Can Help](#)**

Washington D.C. Office • 2323 Rayburn HOB • Washington, D.C. 20515 • Ph: (202) 225-6190 • Fax: (202) 226-1528

Santa Fe Office • 1611 Calle Lorca, Suite A • Santa Fe, NM 87505 • Ph: (505) 984-8950 • Fax: (505) 986-5047

Rio Rancho Office • 3200 Civic Center NE Suite 330 • Rio Rancho, NM 87144 • Ph: (505) 994-0499 • Fax: (505) 994-0550

Farmington Office • 800 Municipal Dr. • Farmington, NM 87401 • Ph: (505) 324-1005 • Fax: (505) 324-1026

Gallup Office • 110 West Aztec Avenue • Gallup, NM 87301 • Ph: (505) 863-0582 • Fax: (505) 863-0678

Las Vegas Office • NMHU Hewett Hall, 210. • Las Vegas, NM 87701 • Ph: (505) 454-3038 • Fax: (505) 454-3265

Clovis Office • 418 Main Street • Clovis, NM 88101 • Ph: (575) 461-3029 • Fax: (575) 461-3192