

Los Alamos Has It's First Confirmed COVID-19 Case

April 04, 2020: Message from Council Chair Sara Scott:

The County has just received notice from the Governor's office that Los Alamos has its first confirmed case of COVID-19. The information I have is that the patient is a male in his 40's, and that he is currently isolating (not in the hospital). As usual, the Department of Health is conducting an investigation to determine exposure history.

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This news underscores the need to continue to protect each other through taking the Stay at Home Instruction, social distancing, frequent hand washing and other important measures seriously. I'd also like to reinforce the state's and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new recommendation that cloth face coverings may provide some additional benefit due to spread of the virus by asymptomatic individuals. While we still need to focus on the key measures listed above, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises using cloth masks as we are out in public to slow the spread of the virus. (Additional information regarding cloth face covers can be found at cdc.gov.) Medical grade materials such as those used in surgical and N95 masks should still be reserved for front line medical and emergency workers.

I know how much we respect and care for each other and our community. Our personal actions and responsibility can and will continue to have a critical impact on our health and well-being by minimizing the spread of the virus.

While you continue to care for others and our community, please don't forget to take care of yourself. If you have questions about County services, how to get help with critical needs, or areas where volunteers are needed, please call 505-662-8333. They have a list of a broad set of available resources. Websites provide daily updates regarding the status of testing in our state, pandemic guidance, and press releases ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), [cv.nmhealth.org](https://www.cv.nmhealth.org), and the COVID-19 button on the front page of the County's website ([losalamosnm.us](https://www.losalamosnm.us)). We are all in this together and together we'll continue to make a difference.

Locally, the County will continue to perform essential services. Please continue to call 311 (or 505-662-8333) if you have any questions regarding County services, contact information for organizations that can help with issues such as paying for food or utilities, access to needed services, or how you can help the community at this time. The County also has a COVID-19 button on the front page of our website (losalamosnm.us) where you can find County announcements regarding COVID-19 measures and links to state and national information sources. Remember that if you feel you may have been infected with the Coronavirus, please call the Coronavirus emergency hotline at 855-600-3453 rather than going into a clinic or doctor's office.

Effective coordination between the County, medical center, public schools, and LANL continues to be important in identifying and addressing needs. Support from Representative Chandler and NM State offices has been exemplary; we are fortunate to have their razor sharp focus and commitment on how to best to promote the health and wellbeing of New Mexicans.

Please continue to be considerate about shopping for what you need, and not more, and by allowing those that are most vulnerable to take advantage of the special shopping hours at Smith's. It is my understanding that the Los Alamos Cooperative Market will be implementing a curbside pickup system on Wednesday March 25th, please check their website for additional information on this new service.

I've seen so many examples of how we are caring for others and know that this will continue and grow, but please don't forget to take care of yourselves as well. Working together our community is doing what it can to minimize the impact of this pandemic challenge; I thank each and every one of you for doing your part.