



# BernCo at a Glance E-newsletter

Volume 3 | April 29, 2020



## CORONAVIRUS [COVID-19]

BERNALILLO COUNTY INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

*Click to visit website*

### Safer at Home Extended to May 15

Now more than ever...stay home for those who can't.  
Stay safe, stay healthy and help stop the spread of germs.

- Practice social distancing -- be aware of your surroundings and others near you
- Adhere to the six-foot rule and stay at home except as needed for grocery shopping, medical assistance and exercise
- Limit group contact to five or fewer people
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Stay home if you are sick

#### New Mexico Department of Health:

- New Mexicans with COVID-19 related questions should call the coronavirus hotline at 855-600-3453
- Non-COVID-19 related questions or concerns, call 833-551-0518
- \*\*\*[NMDOH COVID-19 Public Dashboard](#) -- the data dashboard includes county-by-county breakdowns of positive cases by age, gender and ethnicity.

#### Up-to-date information about state mandates and information:

[www.newmexico.gov](http://www.newmexico.gov). [Emergency order extended to May 15](#)

Information and resources from the CDC regarding coronavirus COVID-19:

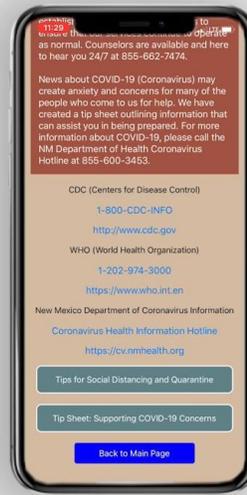
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

CDC fact sheets to read and/or download,

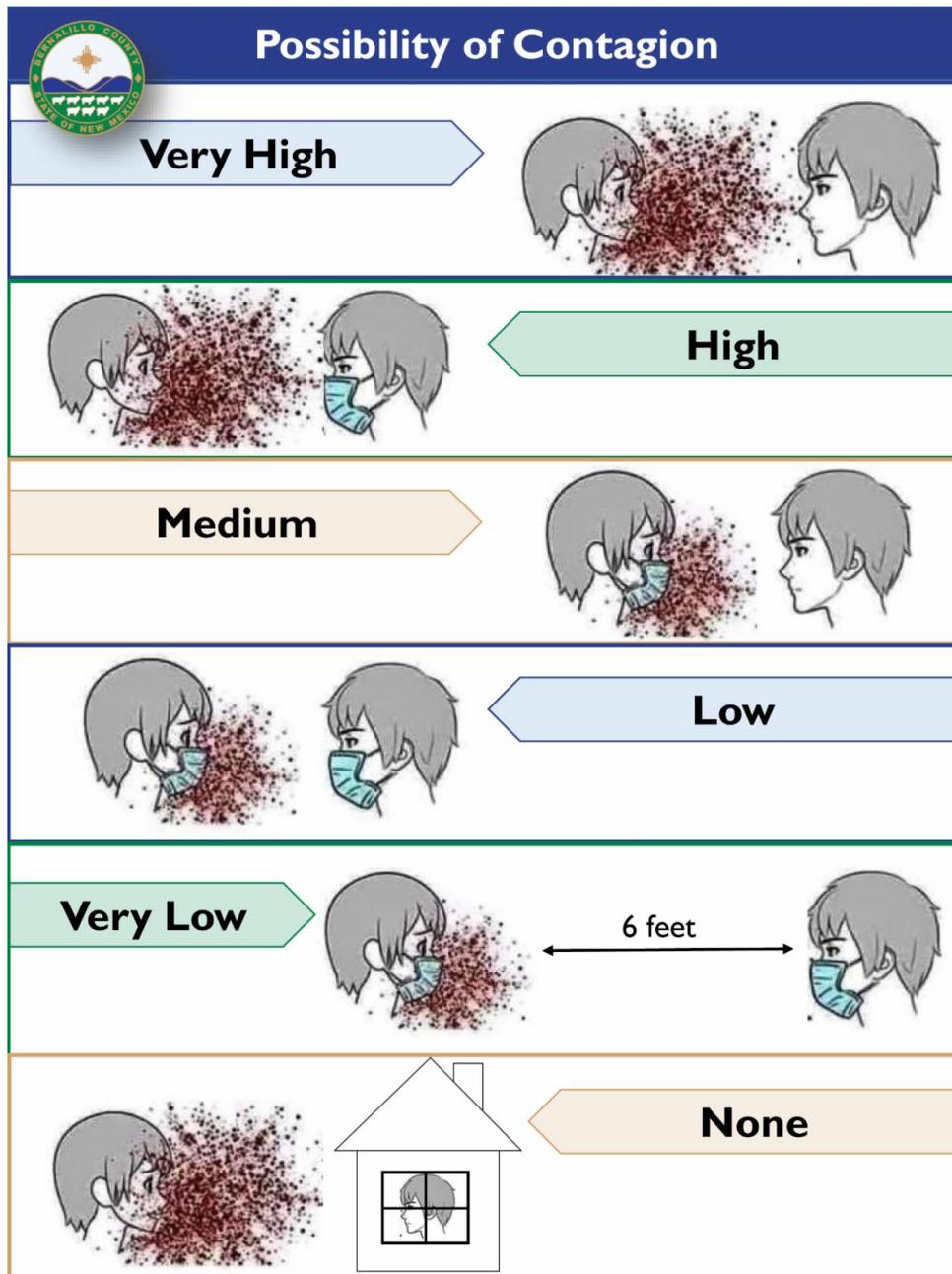
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>

The New Mexico Crisis and Access Line (NMCAL) is excited to announce the NMConnect smartphone app for all New Mexicans.

The NMConnect App is a nimble tool that **can quickly respond to the needs of the community**, and **make information available to millions of users in an instant.**



**Stay home, stay safe.**  
**We are all in this together.**



## BernCo Funding to Assist Small Businesses



Plans are being made and money has been approved by the Bernalillo County Commission to fund local organizations who will, in turn, assist small businesses with advice and direction, as unincorporated area businesses prepare to reopen post coronavirus (COVID-19). The commission approved \$500,000 from the county general fund for Economic Development programming to aid small businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county.

**"We need to help owners get back on a strong business footing,"**says County Commission Chair Lonnie Talbert. **"This is a way to match those with a forward-thinking business knowledge and business owners to make sure these businesses survive into the future."**

Organizations that have demonstrated past excellence in workforce/entrepreneurial development for the creation, facilitation, and implementation of multi-pronged media and small business assistance are encouraged to submit a proposal for an award under the Small Business Assistance Program Administration Services Program. Economic development and accounting administrators will evaluate the proposals and determine awards.

Bernalillo County Commissioner Debbie O'Malley, says this is the beginning step in getting businesses back on their feet.

**"This is not a grant program, but technical assistance program to help small businesses at this very difficult time,"** Commissioner O'Malley says. **"With this ever changing economic landscape, small business owners need to know how to take advantage of new ways of doing business and available resources on the local, state and federal level."**

The request for proposal will be posted on the county procurement site at <http://www.bernco.gov/general-services/request-for-proposals.aspx>.

## BernCo Commission Accepts CARES Grant

*County Distribution is \$31.8 Million*

CORONAVIRUS AID RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT

# CARES ACT

**DIRECT HELP  
FOR  
AMERICANS**



**RELIEF FOR  
SMALL  
BUSINESSES**



**SUPPORT FOR  
HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS**



**STABILITY  
FOR OUR  
ECONOMY**



Bernalillo County commissioners approved and accepted the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) grant** from the federal government. CARES payments to states, local, and tribal governments are designed to offset the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Government entities that accept the CARES grant agree that the money will be used for directly related coronavirus expenses as follows:

1. Necessary expenses due to a public health emergency
2. Expenses that were not allocated for in the most recently approved budget – fiscal year 2021 budget approved by the County Commission on March 27
3. Expenses that are incurred during the period from March 1 – Dec. 30, 2020

As required to receive reimbursement from the federal government, the Bernalillo County Finance Division has been tracking all expenses including equipment and supplies, employee work hours dedicated to COVID 19, and all other expenses related to the coronavirus.

**“This is the opportunity for the county to recoup monies that have been spent managing the coronavirus outbreak in the county and keeping our residents safe,”** says County Manager Julie Morgas Baca. **“We have been working very closely with the City of Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico and this money will go a long way in offsetting the high cost of fighting this pandemic. I am very grateful to the New Mexico federal delegation for their guidance in this process.”**

States, counties and cities with a population above 500,000 qualify for the grant. The amount distributed is based on the population within the jurisdiction of the government. Bernalillo County has more than 500,000 residents, but a majority fall within the city limits. Of the almost \$200 million allocated in Bernalillo County, roughly \$32 million went to the county with the rest going to the City of Albuquerque.

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## **UPDATED Schedule of BernCo Office Hours and Public Access**

### **Recent BernCo News Releases**

*(click each news release below to read in full)*

#### **Property Tax Payments Remain Due**

Following discussions with the State of New Mexico, 2019 second-half property tax payments remain as scheduled by state statute. Payments **must be submitted via online, or deposited in the county drop box at Fifth and Marquette, or mailed and postmarked by May 10 to avoid any assessed penalties or interest.** The Bernalillo County Treasurer’s Office does accept the postmark as the payment date.

County Treasurer, Nancy Bearce says the county collects and sends taxes to other agencies such as the University of New Mexico Hospital, Central New Mexico Community College, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Albuquerque Public Schools and the City of Albuquerque. Extending collections could have a direct impact on an agency’s ability to operate and its budget.

Treasurer Bearce recommends that any resident, or business owner, who is having trouble making their tax payment contact their mortgage or financing institution to discuss assistance or payment options that may be available.

#### **Office of the Assessor Wants to Remind Property Owners of Available Exemptions**

Property owners who have not taken advantage of the head of family, veteran or 100% disabled veteran exemptions and the value freeze program, must do so no later than 30 days after the mailing of the notice of value (NOV) statements.

#### **Bernalillo County – We’re Here for You During COVID-19**

The county’s CARE campus is still operating, with reduced staff, to provide 24/7 services for behavioral health. The CARE campus provides a variety of programs to reduce the impact of alcoholism, substance abuse, and behavioral health needs within the community. The campus is located at 5901 Zuni, and more information is available at [www.bernco.gov/dbhs](http://www.bernco.gov/dbhs).

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## **2020 Primary Election: Request an Absentee Ballot**

**#BeTheVote #TrustedInfo2020** -- Voters may request an absentee ballot online [here](#).

Call 505-243-VOTE (8683) or via email [clerk@bernco.gov](mailto:clerk@bernco.gov)

**Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters beginning May 5.**

**Last day to request an absentee ballot for the primary election is May 28.**

New Mexico has a closed primary election system. To vote in the 2020 Primary Election, one

must be a registered Democrat, Republican or Libertarian.  
**Deadline for independent voters to select a major political party is May 5.**  
Registered voters can change their party or select a party [online here](#).



## Community Resources and Information

### **BernCo Serves Grab-and-Go Breakfasts and Lunches** **(and a FREE tomato plant too!...while supplies last)**

**Cost: Meals are free**

Weekly average of meals served is 2800+

BernCo is serving 'grab-and-go' breakfasts and lunches at six county locations. Parents drive-up to the community center with their children in the vehicle and center staff give a breakfast and lunch for each child requested.

Meals are served Mondays – Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (grab and go only):

- Mt. View Community Center
- Paradise Hills Community Center
- Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center
- South Valley Multipurpose Center
- Vista Grande Community Center
- Westside Community Center

### **APS Student Meal Pick-Ups**

**Cost: Meals are free**

- UPDATE: Hours of Operation: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
  - Students will receive meals for two days.
- Available to all school-age students under the age of 18 as of Monday, March 16, 2020.
- UPDATE: Students are expected to be in the vehicle when meals are picked up. If they have an online or televised class that conflicts with meal distribution, parents may pick up the meals for them as long as they can show their child's student ID or report card.
- APS requests that you do not bring animals to the Grab & Go sites, including in your cars. [Visit the APS website for locations.](#)

### **Stimulus Checks**

IRS Get My Payment, <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

### **US Census 2020**

How to Respond, <https://2020census.gov/>

[Safety Tips for Shopping](#) -- Tip sheet (English)  
[Safety Tips for Shopping](#) -- Tip sheet (Spanish)

[How to Properly Clean Your Groceries](#) -- Tip sheet

[Don't Bring Coronavirus Home with You](#) -- Tip sheet

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## Bernalillo County Census 2020 - Swahili

Bernalillo County is committed to trying to get a full and accurate 2020 Census count, especially in historically under-counted and hard-to-count communities. It's not too late to fill out your census form if you haven't already!

[my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov)



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## Local Growers Offer 'Farm to Car'

Local growers and farmers will be offering pre-order of your favorite fruits and vegetables for both the Rail Yards Market, <http://railyardsmarket.org/> and the Downtown Grower's Market, <http://www.downtowngrowers.org/>. Visit their websites for pre-ordering instructions. Curbside pickup allows for proper social distancing. Vendors will be updated weekly.





# Water Conservation Plan UPDATE

The Bernalillo County Water Conservation Program is seeking public comment on an update to its Water Conservation Plan. The plan proposes increased water conservation education and outreach, expanded water conservation incentive programs, and the introduction of assistance with agricultural water efficiency. The Water Conservation Program welcomes input from Bernalillo County residents on the draft plan. The plan is posted at: [www.bernco.gov/water](http://www.bernco.gov/water).  
**Comments are due by May 15, 2020.**



## For assistance, please contact:

- Metropolitan Detention Center (general inmate info): (505) 839-8700
- Roads and traffic: (505) 848-1504 or (505) 848-1503
- Animal Care Services: (505) 468-PETS
- Property Maintenance (report a park or facility that needs cleanup): (505) 224-2119
- Schedule a large item pick-up: (505) 892-1200
- Department of Behavioral Health Services customer service: (505) 468-1555
- Court of Wills, Estates and Probate (general info): (505) 468-1232
  - Schedule an appointment: call (505) 468-1229 or email [probate@bernco.gov](mailto:probate@bernco.gov)
- Unclaimed & Indigent Cremation Program: (505) 468-7295
- Accounts Payable general inquiries: (505) 468-7020
- All other calls: (505) 468-7777 or email [contactcenter@bernco.gov](mailto:contactcenter@bernco.gov)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- [Glyphosate Moratorium](#)

Website: [www.BernCo.gov](http://www.BernCo.gov) | Email: [info@BernCo.gov](mailto:info@BernCo.gov)