BernCo at a Glance E-newsletter

Volume 3 | Aug. 19, 2020

www.BernCo.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 Public Health Requirements

- **Foremost, please stay home if you are sick. Period.**
- Masks are mandatory in public, non-compliance can result in a $100 fine
- Mandatory 14-day isolation period for all out-of-state travel and/or visitors
- 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

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.

Information and resources from the CDC regarding coronavirus COVID-19: www.cdc.gov.

CDC fact sheets to read and/or download, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html

NMConnect smartphone app for all New Mexicans (click to learn more)

South Valley COVID-19 Testing

Dates and Times:

Who can get tested?

Sunday, Aug. 23 – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 24 – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 25 – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 25 – 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

This is a public test site. Preference to people with COVID-19 type symptoms; however, asymptomatic people are also allowed.

Location – Isleta Amphitheater

Directions – From Rio Bravo and University proceed south on University, Once at the top of the second hill by the pavilion, turn right into the pavilion parking lot. Follow the signs to the testing facility. Once tested, exit concert pavilion and turn left on University and proceed north towards Rio Bravo.

i COUNT NM

i count because i care

Door-to-Door Visits Begin Nationwide for 2020 Census

The Census is in the final stages of the count. Census workers will be conducting Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) operations by knocking on doors of homes that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census.

MAKE 2020 CENSUS COUNT!

Health and Safety

Census takers are trained rigorously and will follow these CDC recommendations to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission:

- Wear a face mask
- Will have face masks to provide to residents
- Maintain social distancing
- Practice hand hygiene
- Will not enter homes and will conduct interviews outside as much as possible or practical.

How to identify a Census Worker

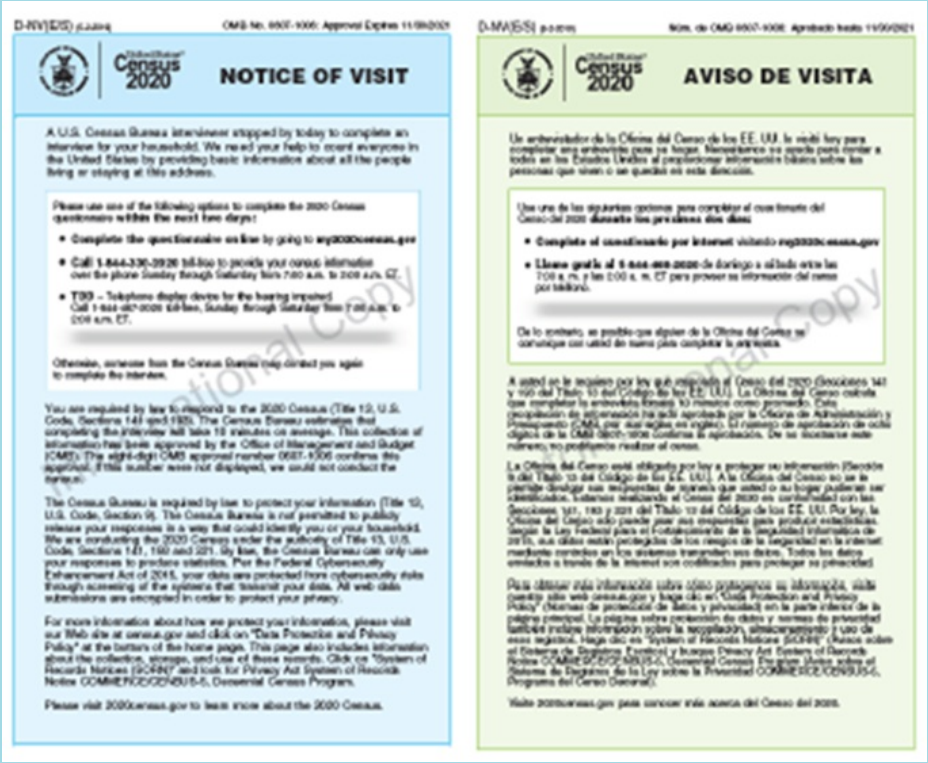
A Census Taker will have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date.

Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo as pictured below.

Notice of Visit

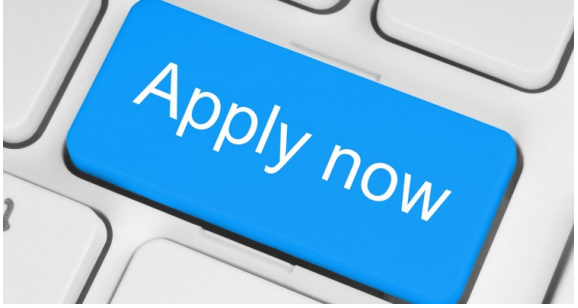
Even though census workers are knocking on doors, residents can still self-respond online, by phone, or by mail.

Visit **2020census.gov** or call 844-330-2020 (English) | 844-468-2020 (Spanish)



BernCo Commissioners Approve Second Round of CARES Grants for Small Businesses

Bernalillo County is continuing to provide emergency financial support through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act federal stimulus package for qualified small businesses. Bernalillo County Commissioners approved a second round of grants, this time giving priority to businesses using the money



for wages.

The grants will be up to $10,000 for qualifying small businesses. The county allocated $5-million in June and dispersed $3.2 million during the first round of CARES grants, leaving roughly $1.8 million available for this grant application period.

For a business to qualify, it must have a physical establishment located within Bernalillo County and have one-50 full-time employees, or equivalent part-time employees. Additionally, businesses and organizations must not have received more than $3 million in taxable receipts per annum. Priority will be given to businesses and organizations that did not receive funds from the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), Federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), or small business assistance funds from the State of New Mexico or the City of Albuquerque. Reimbursement is not required for grant recipients.

The application process will open on Aug. 17, and close on Aug. 23, unless funds are exhausted sooner. Needed documentation for the grant application can be found on the county website at: **www.bernco/gov.**

Request an Absentee Application at BerncoVotes.org

Healthy voting tips...

Visit **healthyvoting.org** for tips on healthy, secure and safe ways to cast your ballot this year.

Visit **BerncoVotes.org** for elections and voting information in Bernalillo County. For statewide information on elections and voting visit the New Mexico Voter Information Portal at **NMVote.org**.

2020 General Election Key Dates

- Sept. 14, 2020 – Clerk mails absentee application to all registered voters
- Oct. 6, 2020 – Clerks begin mailing absentee ballots to voters who have requested them.
- Oct. 6-16, 2020 – In-person Absentee Voting/Same Day Registration (SDR) at Clerk's Annex.
- Oct. 17-31, 2020 – Early Voting/Same Day Registration
- Oct. 20, 2020 – Deadline for clerk to receive mailed absentee applications.
- Oct. 27, 2020 – Recommended final day for voters to mail absentee ballots.
- Nov. 3, 2020 – Election Day
    - Absentee ballots must arrive by 7 p.m.

Treasurer's Office Working for Property Taxpayers

The Bernalillo County Treasurer's Office continues to serve you with LIVE customer service representatives at 505-468-7031 from 8-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Other service includes: email at **treasurers@bernco.gov**; visit us online at **www.bernco.gov/treasurer**; mail payments to PO Box 27800, Albuquerque, NM 87125 or take a drive downtown to drop your payment (no cash, please) or correspondence at

the secure drop box located at the corner of Fifth and Marquette NW.

The health and safety of our community remains our concern. Until all COVID-19 precautions are installed our physical office will remain closed to the public, following the Governor's public health orders. Twenty-five percent of staff are working a modified daily office schedule to process mail, letters, payments and drop box collections. Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Nancy Bearce, Bernalillo County Treasurer

IAFF Fire Fighters Launch Virtual Fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy Association as COVID Threatens Fill the Boot

As the COVID pandemic affects communities across the United States, it has also impacted in-person fundraising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). For 66 years, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has collected critical funds in the community – one dollar at a time – as part of the Fill the Boot program. But this year, due to social distancing, that's not possible.

This summer, the Albuquerque Fill the Boot will be conducted virtually.

Click here for the link to the donor drive .

BernCo Public Art - Call for Artists

BernCo Public Art Announces Call for Photographs for Alvarado Square Art

The Bernalillo County Public Art program is announcing a call for artists to submit photographs for use in the building design of the new county headquarters at Alvarado Square.

Photographs chosen will help create a welcoming environment for customers, county employees and the public. The photographs will be printed in a large scale and used on the walls of Alvarado Square's elevator lobbies, and additional photographs may be used on the windows of the new Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office suite.

The public art program is seeking photographs that represent the story and character of Bernalillo County, including the people, places, landscapes and events of the county.

Chosen photographers will receive $1,500, with a limit of one photograph per artist. Copies of the winning photographs will also be framed and added to the public art program's permanent collection.

The deadline for submissions is Aug. 31, 2020 by mail or email. Complete submission guidelines are available online at **bernco.gov/community-services/current-call-for-entries.aspx**. There is no fee to submit a proposal.

The Bernalillo County Office of Senior and Social Services
is excited to collaborate with Covia Well Connected to present:

Books, Movies, Games & More!

FREE Phone and Online Groups for Seniors 60+

Bernalillo County Office of Senior and Social Services (OSSS) is pleased to work with Well Connected, a nationwide senior program. Visit Well Connected at https://covia.org/services/well-connected/

and call 877.797.7299 or email coviaconnections@covia.org to register today!

Interested in volunteering to facilitate a group? Contact OSSS@bernco.gov to learn more.

Visit and like the Office of Senior and Social Services (OSSS) Facebook page at:
https://www.facebook.com/BernCoOSSS

Programs supported by Bernalillo County Office of Senior and Social Services

Book to Movie Discussion

Wednesdays, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16 | 4 - 5 pm

Each month the group will read and discuss a story and its movie adaptation.
Was the movie true to the story, or not? We'll discuss the following:

- **The Curious Case of Benjamin Button by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The movie stars Brad Pitt (September).**
- **Fences, a stage play by August Wilson. The movie stars Denzel Washington and Viola Davis (October).**
- **Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. The movie is titled Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, and stars Robert DeNiro (November).**
- **The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry. The most recent movie stars Marla Sokoloff and Mark Webber (December).**

You can find the movies on streaming services such as Amazon Prime, Google Play, Netflix or YouTube.

Facilitated by Staci Miceli, Community Program Enhancement Specialist,Bernalillo County Office of Senior & Social Services

Bingo Wednesdays

Sept. 2 and 16, Oct. 7 and 21, Nov. 4 and 18, Dec. 2 and 16 | 10 - 11 am

Bingo Saturdays

Sept. 5 – Dec. 26 | 10 - 11 am (beginners)

11 am - Noon (advanced)

Bingo? On the telephone? You bet! Join us for the classic game of chance and a few variations.
Call Well Connected to request Bingo cards, including cards in Braille: (877) 797-7299.

Facilitated by Brenda Cisneros-Fernandez, Public Health Specialist, Bernalillo County Office of Senior and Social Services (Wednesday) and Janice Rooker (Saturday)

Trivial Pursuit: Genus Edition

Every Tuesday, Sept. 1 - Dec. 29 | 4:30 - 5 pm

In the pursuit of trivial knowledge, the group will embark on a virtual game of Trivial Pursuit and compete to know the most about geography, entertainment, history, art & literature, science & nature, and sports & leisure.

Facilitated by Amber Carroll, Director of Covia Well Connected, and Brenda Cisneros-Fernandez, Public Health Specialist, Bernalillo County Office of Senior and Social Services, and Elantra V.

Teeniors and the Value of Human Connection

Tuesday, October 6 | Noon - 1 pm

Teeniors® are tech-savvy young people who help older adults learn technology through one-on-one, personalized coaching. Whether it's a smartphone, tablet, computer or software - the goal is to empower older adults to connect with their loved ones, engage with their communities, and the world, through technology - while providing paid, meaningful jobs for youth, showing how the power of human connection all over the world brings change to our communities.

Facilitated by Amber Carroll, Director of Covia Well Connected, and Trish Lopez, Teeniors NM Bernalillo County Office of Senior and Social Services

Virtual Gardening Classes

Want to start a garden at home but not sure where to start? Participate in these live and interactive gardening classes led by local specialists and Master Gardeners to learn about harvesting produce, seed saving, and keeping yourself healthy with mindfulness practices in the garden.

Every Wednesday in August & September from 6 pm – 7 pm

August 12th Seed saving basics- you can do it from your own backyard.
August 19th Happy harvest. When and how to pick, wash and store for best results.
August 26th General garden Q and A. Bring your burning questions and ask a panel of horticultural experts. All questions welcome!
September 2nd YOUR health and the garden. Let's dig into our health- depression, cracked hands, sunburn and mindfulness. This workshop will include a short mindfulness practice session.

Classes are scheduled through Zoom. Click link to register for class. After registering you will receive an email with link to attend class at scheduled time
https://nmsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqf-Gorz0rHtIfxHzBKHq931zPFZHRk40Q

For more information on making the most of your food, check out these other great resources on food preservation and cooking

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NM STATE

APS

PRESBYTERIAN Community Health
PRESBYTERIAN Healthcare Foundation

Virtual Food Preservation Classes

Learn how to extend the life of your summer garden produce by preserving it. Join instructor Cindy Davies, Home Economist with Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension to learn:

- Simple ways to dry foods at home
- How to use the freezer as a tool to preserve foods
- Quick pickling and fresh salsa using what you have

Thursdays at 10 – 11 am

August 20	**Freezer Jam and Pesto Sauce**
August 27	**Fresh Salsa and Quick Pickled Vegetables**
September 3	**Fruit Leather and Drying Chili**

Classes are scheduled through Zoom. Click link to register for class:

Click Here to Register for Classes

After registering you will receive an email with link to attend class at scheduled time.

Questions? Contact **adunworth@phs.org**

PRESBYTERIAN Community Health
PRESBYTERIAN Healthcare Foundation

NM STATE

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Introducing Backyard Farming Buzz from Bernalillo County Open Space and Gutiérrez Hubbell House! Until we can garden together again in person, Backyard Farming Buzz will bring regular updates to help you schedule and plan your late summer and fall garden activities. Look for the sunflower and bee on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Facebook page for weather, planting, and planning tips. Let us know what kinds of gardening support would be helpful to you. Happy Growing!

Mile-Hi Farmers' Market

Sundays 10am – 1pm

July 5 – Sept. 27, 2020

Alvarado Park
2000 Alvarado Dr. N.E.

Join Us In the Neighborhood

Farm-fresh Produce ~ Baked Foods ~ Jerky

Carvings, Jewelry, Pottery, Soaps, Lotions

and many other wonderful goods!

COVID – 19 precautions

Recent BernCo News Releases

(click each news release below to read in full)

Computer Upgrades to Close Some County Offices - Planning and Development Services, Solid Waste and Traffic Engineering Affected
Aug. 13, 2020 - – Bernalillo County offices utilizing Accela Automation and Accela Citizen Access will be closed and services unavailable from Thursday, Aug. 20 at 5 p.m. to Monday, Aug. 24 at 8 a.m. Accela is a system that allows citizens and county employees to enter and track work such as building and construction inspections, permitting and health and zoning requests and issues.

Thank you for reading BernCo at a Glance

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**
- 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**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Glyphosate Moratorium

Website: www.BernCo.gov | Email: info@BernCo.gov