



DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION

THE NAVAJO NATION

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Jonathan Nez
President

Myron Lizer
Vice-President

March 11, 2020

School Leaders,

Good morning from the Department of Dine Education. The Navajo Nation President, Honorable Jonathan Nez, has assembled a team consisting of Navajo Nation Division Directors, Indian Health Service leaders, and Navajo Nation 638 Hospital leaders to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic happening throughout the world, with specific focus on the Navajo Nation. We are serving on the Navajo Nation's COVID-19 preparation team. There are no confirmed cases on the Navajo Nation as of this date. We pray that coronavirus NEVER comes within the sacred mountains and land of the Dine people.

The Department of Dine Education is a member of this team with the focus on all schools located on the Navajo Nation. This includes all State Public, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIE) funded, Tribally Controlled, Mission, and Private Schools, and Navajo Nation Head Start Centers. This letter serves as an announcement to your school and community that information on COVID-19 we have gathered from the U.S. Department of Education and Interior, State Departments of Education from Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and the BIE that informs the schools, teachers, parents, and community members of the preventative measures regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). Much of the information has already been disseminated to schools and the general public. We have compiled this information on our DODE website for your access at the address listed below.

Address: www.navajonationdode.org and www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19

We advise you to review the information for your own safety and benefit as well as for the benefit of your school and community. In addition, we strongly discourage school field trips outside the Navajo Nation. The COVID-19 is very unpredictable and a serious matter. We want to keep our students, teachers, and school staff safe and healthy. We kindly make this request to all schools on the Navajo Nation.

Dr. Calvin White at the Department of Dine Education is the lead contact for any information, questions, clarification, or concerns you may regarding this message. He can be reached at 928.872.7448 or calvinwhite@nndode.org. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maggie Benally".

Maggie Benally, EDD, Interim Superintendent
Navajo Nation Department of Dine Education