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## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

**April 7, 2020**

*The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.*

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### **Food establishments to sell convenience items**

*Such sales are allowed under state regulations*

By selling products like toilet paper and other convenience items, restaurants and food establishments in New Mexico are helping citizens maintain social distancing and reducing strain on grocery stores during the coronavirus public health emergency.

Many restaurants are offering grocery items for purchase alongside take-out and delivery items. The New Mexico Environment Department's Food Program concurs that selling such items is in compliance with state and federal restaurant regulations.

"Social distancing is the best weapon we have in fighting the spread of COVID-19. By getting not only meals but also necessary items like toilet paper and hand sanitizer using pick-up and delivery options, New Mexicans can slow the spread of COVID-19," said New Mexico Environment Department Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. "Our Food Program will continue to ensure that restaurants are operating in a safe and sanitary way with state public health orders."

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