

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COVID-19 Vaccine Update From DOH; Financial Assistance Available for COVID-Affected New Mexicans**

The New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) is reporting that 100% of in-state Phase 1 registrants have received an invitation to a vaccine appointment.

* All New Mexicans 16 years and older are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, but the state is prioritizing invitations for New Mexicans 75 years and older and New Mexicans 60 years and older with a chronic condition.

* The Department of Health also encourages New Mexicans to update their profiles on [vaccineNM.org](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/bWxnCjRkrGIgwOJOi19lZR?domain=vaccinenm.org) if they registered through the state system but got vaccinated elsewhere (either out-of-state or with another provider). “Doing so will help DOH get invitations to other New Mexicans more quickly,” said DOH Cabinet Secretary Dr. Tracie Collins.

As a reminder, New Mexicans 75 years and older can now self-schedule their vaccine appointments at [vaccineNM.org](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/bWxnCjRkrGIgwOJOi19lZR?domain=vaccinenm.org) – no event code is required. All New Mexicans can also self-schedule their boosters without an event code.

**COVID-Related Financial Assistance**

Funeral Costs: Starting Monday, April 12, those who lost loved ones to COVID-19 will be able to apply to FEMA for retroactive reimbursements for burial costs. Applicants can receive up to $9,000 per burial.

* To apply, you must call (844) 684-6333.  The call center will be open from 7am to 7pm ET, starting April 12. For more information: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

Housing Costs: Applications for the COVID-19 Housing Cost Assistance Program, operated by the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, must be completed by 5pm on April 15. Income-eligible recipients will receive as much as $1,500 per month for up to three months for rental and mortgage-related payments.

* Details of all qualifying criteria can be found at [housingnm.org](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/524yCkRlvJIgRw0wi8PMsG?domain=housingnm.org). Applicants may also call 505-308-4206 or toll free at 866-488-0498 for more information.

Utility Costs: New Mexico Gas Company has established $1.2 million in COVID-19 relief funding to assist income-qualifying customers and small business owners who have fallen behind on their gas bills because of the pandemic. Qualified residential customers will receive a one-time payment of $150 toward their bill, and small business owners who qualify will be eligible for a one-time credit of up to $250.

Residential customers can apply for help through New Mexico Gas Company’s HEAT New Mexico program. For customers seeking to learn more, please go to [nmgco.com](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/NqJhClYmwKfL3MKMfVpqkx?domain=nmgco.com) or reach out to 1-888-664-2726. Small business owners can apply online at [www.nmgco.com/SmallBusiness/CovidRelief](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/Wll6CmZnxLuv7MYMf3Qugc?domain=nmgco.com)

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