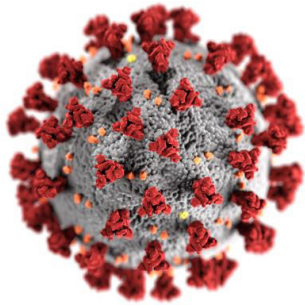




# Sandoval County Now E-newsletter

Volume V January 2021



## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sandoval County Information and Resources [Click here for website](#)

### 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](http://www.newmexico.gov).  
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>

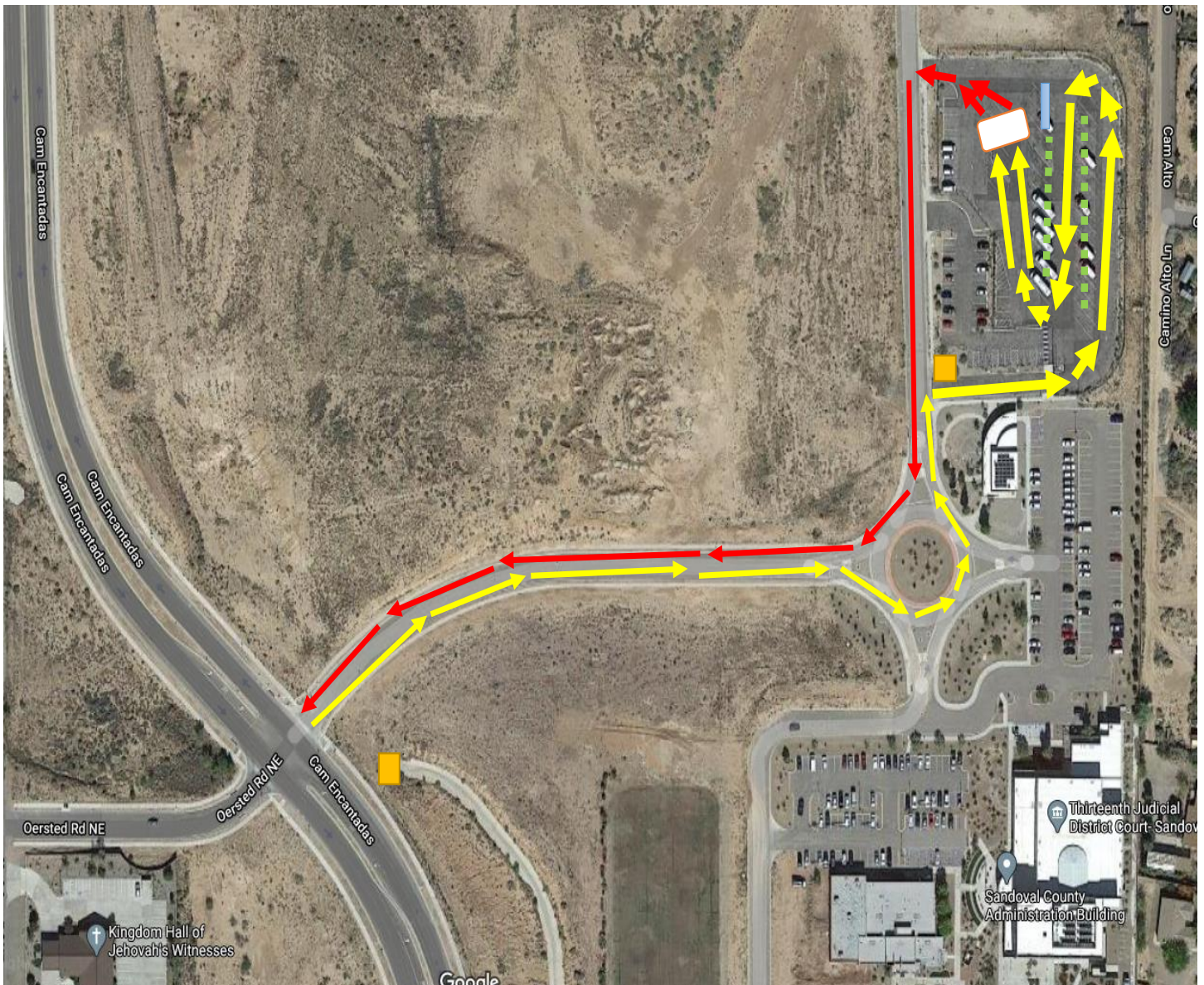
COVID-19 Testing at Sandoval County EOC: 1500 Idalia Rd. Building C Bernalillo, NM

**Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

- Go to [cvtestingreg.nmhealth.org](http://cvtestingreg.nmhealth.org) or scan QR Code
- Fill out all required (\*) fields
- You must enter your cell phone # or email address
- Select testing date: ##/##/####
- Where would you like to be tested: **Sandoval County**
- Location you will be visiting: **Sandoval County EOC**
- Please be prepared to present your test confirmation ID



Here is a map for residents getting tested for COVID-19 to use at the Sandoval County Administration building





Contact: Stephen Montoya PIO  
Office: 505-867-7640 Cell: 505-382-2753  
[spmontoya@sandovalcountynm.gov](mailto:spmontoya@sandovalcountynm.gov)

*For immediate release,*  
January 9, 2021

**EOC to begin vaccinations on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Jan. 19th**

Starting on January 19th, 2021, the Sandoval County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), in partnership with the NM Department of Health (DOH), will be administering COVID-19 vaccinations on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the afternoon. The specific time will be relayed during or after an individual registers and confirmation is sent by DOH.

Starting the week of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the EOC and DOH will be increasing their allotments to 400 doses (200 first and 200 second) a week so there will be plenty of opportunity for personnel to start getting their first dose of the vaccine. A system has been created that will remind those who have received the first dose when they need to schedule for their second dose.

**IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED IN THE STATE SYSTEM, PLEASE LOG BACK IN AND DOUBLE CHECK ALL YOUR INFO.**

There have been recent changes to the system and we want to make sure everyone is fully in the system and up-to-date.

Registration DOES NOT guarantee an immediate spot for vaccination. Upon registration, the web system will let the individual know, based on the identified DOH Phases, when they will be eligible and how to pick a day to get your vaccine.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. All registrations are being processed through the vaccine web portal: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/>

###



## PHASE 1A

- Hospital personnel
- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
- Medical first responders
- Congregate setting workers (homeless shelters, correctional facilities, residential treatment centers, and community homes)
- Persons providing direct medical care and other in-person services
- Home-based healthcare and hospice workers

\*Winter



## PHASE 1B

- Persons 75+
- Persons 16+ at risk of COVID complications
- Frontline essential workers unable to work remotely: Early education and K-12 educators/staff, caregivers, grocery stores, food and agriculture, public transit, critical manufacturing, public health, public safety, mortuaries, indigent care, non-hospital laboratories
- Vulnerable populations: Residents of congregate settings<sup>1</sup>

\*Winter - Spring



## PHASE 1C

- Adults 60+
- Other essential workers unable to work remotely: Transport and logistics, utilities, energy, water and wastewater, food service, retail, shelter and housing, financial services, IT and communications, energy, legal and accounting, media, veterinary and livestock services

\*Spring



## PHASE 2

Members of the general public (age 16+)

\*Summer

*\* Estimated time frames; dependent on DOH receiving vaccine*

*<sup>1</sup>Vulnerable populations at risk of COVID complications can be vaccinated sooner*

## Images from the December 30th 2020 Swearingin Ceremony held in the Sandoval County Commission Chambers



**Sandoval County Commission Chairman David J. Heil** has been serving the people of Sandoval County since 2016 and was elected as Commission Chair in 2018. Chairman Heil holds a BSBA from John Carroll University in transportation and has also completed post graduate coursework in accounting, computer science and finance. He has over 40 years of experience as a manager in corporate business, computer systems sales, management of physical distribution and materials operations for major manufacturers, and of sales and operations of domestic and international transportation. In addition, he also has 20 years of experience in investments, real estate and property management. A Commissioner with a passion for service, Heil has also served with the Albuquerque Transportation Club, Villa Santa Maria Boys Home, North I-25 Industrial Association, Albuquerque – Rio Rancho Boys and Girls Club and Rio Rancho Kiwanis Club. Commissioner Heil is married to his wife Carol, and is loved by 3 Rescue dogs and 1 Standard Poodle. This will be Heil's second term as a Commissioner for District 4.

## Images from the December 30th 2020 Swearingin Ceremony held in the Sandoval County Commission Chambers



**Commissioner Jay C. Block** was born in Manchester, NH and grew up with a strong interest to serve at a young age. In 1987 and early 1988, he worked for the Jack Kemp for President Campaign during the New Hampshire primary season. In 1989, Block graduated from high school and decided to serve his country by enlisting in the Air Force Reserve. He then transferred to the Air National Guard in North Dakota while attending college at North Dakota State University where he interned for a U.S. Senator in 1993 and graduated in 1995 with a political science degree and a commission through the Air Force ROTC program. During Block's distinguished 21+ years as an officer he served in numerous nuclear assignments to include, an ICBM missile maintenance and launch officer where he was hand-selected to test launch a Minuteman III ICBM in 2001. Later that year, Block earned a master's degree in international relations from Troy State University that would help him during later assignments. Block felt the need to serve and contribute to the effort during the Global War on Terrorism so he volunteered to serve in Afghanistan in 2005 and 2006, where his biggest impact was volunteering to command and organize numerous humanitarian missions for the Afghan people. Block also had the distinction to command at two different locations where he served as the senior American officer representing our country on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic and at Volkel Air Base in The Netherlands. Block retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2016 and he and his family decided to stay in Rio Rancho to settle down with their kids after 12 moves in 21 years. Due to his vast experience working in the nuclear enterprise, Block started a second career as a consultant with a large firm in private industry where he is also involved in business development. This will be Block's second term as a Commissioner for District 2.

## Images from the December 30th 2020 Swearingin Ceremony held in the Sandoval County Commission Chambers



**Commissioner Kenneth Eichwald** has roots in Sandoval County that reach back several generations. In fact, Eichwald's grandfather, Aaron Augustine Eichwald, was a New Mexico State Senator and a Sandoval County Commissioner in the 1920s. Originally a trader, Eichwald's grandfather was a German immigrant that married into a native New Mexican family from Gallina, New Mexico. Eichwald said his mother's side of the family had been in the Cuba area since Coronado's conquest of New Mexico. Eichwald's father was a rancher who owned nearly 100 acres of land where he grew alfalfa, and raised livestock. Initially one of the last generations to experience the ranching life-style Eichwald said he learned a lot from his time working on the farm/ranch. Eichwald used his upbringing to forge a career as a teacher in Torreon for almost 10 years and a magistrate court judge for another 24 years eventually retiring in 2014. Eichwald said he ran for the Sandoval County Commission to help his District out with road issues. This will be Eichwald's second term as a Commissioner for District 5.

# COVID-19 Testing in Sandoval County

Testing is available for anyone with or without symptoms

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays  
9:00-11:00 am

**Registration is required prior to arriving.**

## How?

Registration is required:  
[cvtestreg.nmhealth.org](https://cvtestreg.nmhealth.org)

- Fill out all required (\*) fields
- Enter email to get your confirmation
- Select testing date: enter date
- Where would you like to be tested:

Sandoval County

- Which location will you be visiting:  
Sandoval County EOC
- Please be prepared to present your test confirmation ID at testing site

## Where?

**Sandoval County EOC**  
1500 Idalia Rd Building C  
Bernalillo, NM  
Turn Right onto Oersted Rd  
off Cam Encantadas and  
follow testing signs

## Need help registering?

Call  
(505) 867-2291  
ext 1709 or 1712





## Managing Expectations

(Sandoval County Emergency Manager receives top honor for his service)

In Early December, the state Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) named Sandoval County's Seth Muller as Emergency Manager of the Year for 2020.

The Sandoval County Commission also honored Muller for receiving this award at the December 10th Board of Commissioners meeting.

Since beginning his EM career in 2008, Muller has tried to take as many classes and training courses that he could to better prepare him for any scenario. Muller graduated from the American Military University in 2014 earning his Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management with honors. Muller also holds a Certificate in Fire Science.

Muller said a huge part of his being able to get things accomplished is the support he gets from the Sandoval County Fire & Rescue Department.

"I am a civilian employee for SCFR and the unsurmountable support that we get from the Chief and his staff allows us to con-



tinue to move forward," he said. "Knowing we have the full support and trust from them and all leadership at Sandoval County makes it much easier to accomplish and work through all the little details and makes decision making much easier when there are scenarios when time is of the essence."

Sandoval County Fire & Rescue Chief, Eric Masterson, said Muller's knowledge, experience, professionalism, and most importantly, his willingness to help anyone are attributes that have, and continue to, positively impact the communities of Sandoval County.

"This year has been stressful for so many, including those in Emergency Management," Masterson said. "Often, Emergency Managers work behind the scenes ordering supplies, equipment, coordinating logistical matters, etc. In 2020, Seth has done all of this and more for Sandoval County and other entities that he has supported around the State. Sandoval County is incredibly proud of Seth and everything he has helped us with this year."

Muller said the success of any emergency manager rests on their ability to build relationships with the community they serve.

"I definitely did not do anything special or get this award on my own efforts," he said. "Like a Coach needs its team to be successful, I would not be where I am today if it were not for the support system that I have from my family, my colleagues, my county, and my community."

# Zia Pueblo Tribal leaders join SCFR to usher in a new era of safety

**A** Press Conference was held at the Zia Fire Station on December 14th, 2020 to honor a cost sharing agreement between the Zia Pueblo and Sandoval County. This agreement will help hire six new first responders that will cover the five County fire districts that run through many of the unincorporated areas. This agreement comes after the County Commission unanimously voted in October to approve the hiring of six full-time SCFR positions in light of the fact that the Zia Pueblo was willing to



contribute \$200,000 for this fiscal year and \$250,000 for each subsequent fiscal year to help supplement the cost of the salaries. In total, the County is estimated to spend \$680,000 to undertake this process. The new SCFR staff members will be housed at the Zia Volunteer Fire Department full time and answer calls from that location.

“Sandoval County is proud of its partnerships all around the County,” said SCFR Fire Chief Eric Masterson. “Collaboration is a key component to efficiency when it comes to Fire and EMS responses. This newly established, long-term partnership with Zia Pueblo that was unanimously supported by the County Commission will positively impact the citizens and visitors of Sandoval County. In addition to the enhanced services of Zia Pueblo, this crew will also serve the entire Jemez Corridor, 550 corridor, Cuba region, and more. This team will supplement the dedicated volunteers throughout the areas providing support and aid to all fire and EMS related call types. We are excited for this opportunity to enhance our services and appreciate the partnership opportunity with Zia Pueblo.”

According to Masterson, with the additional staff being housed at the Zia Volunteer Fire Station, response times can average 20 minutes faster than they are currently.

Sandoval County Commissioner, Kenneth Eichwald, said this will improve the fire and rescue safety for his district tremendously, plus also help a portion of Rio Arriba County.

“It is important to continue to improve the fire and rescue info structure for the entire area,” he said.

Four new apparatuses are expected to be added to this station in the next year, which include, a new water tender, and engine and a brush truck.

# Getting to know you

(Saying hello to two new elected officials)



## Jennifer Taylor

Jennifer Taylor will be taking on the role as the new Sandoval County Treasurer starting in 2021. Taylor has worked for the County now for three years in the Treasurer's Office and is the first person in her family to run for public office. Here are a few questions she answered recently.

***Now that it is official, what are your thoughts and feelings on winning your election?***

I am very excited about the opportunity to serving the Sandoval County Taxpayers and Constituents as the next County Treasurer. I'm also thankful to all of those who voted and supported me through this journey as I couldn't have done it without



them.

***What are some of the priorities you have for 2021 Treasurer wise?***

- Cleaning up the Tax Roll. Due to Covid, there was no State Auction held this year and we must advocate for it in 2021. This gives Sandoval County the opportunity to reinvest recovered funds that would have been otherwise forfeited. The State Auction is critical to liquidate and collect upon delinquent properties.
- Practicing safe investments. With the market at such low interest rates, we must invest with the highest yields and return on Investment so the County can fully capitalize on the rise in Markets. During these unprecedented times our investments must meet critical portfolio diversification. This is accomplished with systematic collaboration with our Investment Portfolio Manager.
- Transitioning to a traceable and more efficient ACH file transfer process for the monthly distribution.

***What are some things you enjoy doing outside of work for fun?***

I love to go hiking, camping, fishing and traveling. Spending time with my family is very important to me so we try to make it as fun as possible. Playing games and watching movies together is also something I do quite often with them.

# Anne Brady Romero

Anne Brady Romero will be taking on the role of the new Sandoval County Clerk starting in 2021. Brady Romero has worked at Sandoval County for over a decade. Here are a few questions she answered recently.

*Now that it is official, what are your thoughts and feelings on winning your election?*

I am humbled and honored to have been elected to serve Sandoval County as the next Clerk. I am glad the election is over and I look forward to starting the new year.

*What are some of the priorities you have for 2021 Clerk wise?*



I have been talking with other Class A County Clerks and newly elected Clerks about policy implementation and the upcoming legislative session.

My priorities within the first 100 days in office are:

- Develop and implement a restructure of the Clerk's office and amend job descriptions and titles to be in line with actual job duties in conjunction with the Human Resource Department and County Administration.
- Develop and implement written Standard Operating Procedures that are compliant with State Statute and in line with other Class A Counties. I will seek input from the staff because each member of the team has an idea to contribute and have worked there for many years and they know of processes that can make operations more efficient.
- Form a Native American Voting Advisory Committee (NAVAC) with the newly elected Pueblo Governors of Cochiti, Jemez, San Felipe, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, Zia, and the Chapter Presidents of Counselors, Ojo Encino, and Torreon. My hope is that this group will help the Clerk's office plan for upcoming elections that ensures equal access to the ballot box in their respective communities. Sandoval County is the only county in the State with 10 Native American sovereign nations.
- I will work with the Commission to try and fund the purchase of a mobile voting unit in the next budgeting cycle. However, if funds are not available I will try and pursue grant opportunities to fund the initiative.
- I will do an assessment of the Bureau of Elections methodology, technology, and infrastructure to ensure we have the most current apparatuses so ballots are tabulated accurately and efficiently and results are uploaded in a timely manner.

*What are some things you enjoy doing outside of work for fun?*

I enjoy spending time with my husband and in a pre-Covid and post-Covid world spending time with my grandchildren. I have two incredible children and eight amazing grandchildren. They truly light up my world.

# Sandoval County Office and Department Availability



- Assessor's Office

Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed 12pm - 1pm. Appointments recommended.

- Bureau of Elections

Open with limited staff.

- County Clerk's Office

Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Appointments are recommended due to limited staff. Wedding licenses will be available by appointment only from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. Monday - Friday. Call 505-867-7572 for an appointment.

- Human Resources

Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Due to limited staff, please call or email with inquiries.

- Planning and Zoning

Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed between 12-1pm. Submittals can be processed electronically or dropped off at window. Individual meetings must be approved by Director.

- Probate Court

The Sandoval County Probate court will be operating at a reduced level starting July 16, 2020.

Read Notice

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

- Treasurer's Office

Is open for normal business hours from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. The Treasurer's Office will be closed for lunch from 1 p.m.- 2 p.m. during non-tax season. The Treasurer's Office will return to an 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. with no lunch closure during the first half of tax season (November 10 - December 10) and the second half of tax season (April 10 - May 10).

# 2021



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**County Holiday / Observances:**

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 18 - Martin Luther King Day
- May 31 - Memorial Day
- July 5 - Independence Day
- September 6 - Labor Day
- November 11 - Veterans Day
- November 25-26 - Thanksgiving Day
- December 24 & 27 - Christmas

**To be taken within the Calendar year.**

- (2) 8 hour Administrative Leave Days

**Board of Finance**

Start time of 5:00 p.m.

**Sandoval County Commission**

Meetings

Start time of 6:00 p.m.

**Planning & Zoning Commission**

Start time of 4:30 p.m.

**County Pay Days**

All meetings held in the County Commission Chambers located at: 1500 Idalia Road, Building D - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Bernalillo, NM 87004



# COVERAGE FOR THE FAMILY

## HEALTHCARE ENROLLMENT WITH SANDOVAL COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

[Call us to enroll!](#)

**MEDICAID**, SNAP,  
LIHEAP, Cash  
Assistance

Medicare Savings  
Plans

Healthcare  
Assistance Program

CALL US AT:



SANDOVAL  
COUNTY  
HEALTH  
COMMONS

1500 Idalia Road, Bldg. B  
Bernalillo, NM 87004  
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

Call us at: (505) 867-2291  
Ext.1735, 1720

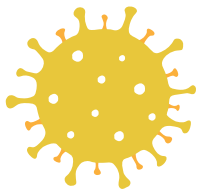
**SE HABLA  
ESPAÑOL.**

# TALK

COVID  
Crisis Counseling

Call Now  
505-954-1057  
It's Free & Anonymous

Step 1



Concerned

Step 2



Feeling  
Anxious &  
Overwhelmed

Step 3



Call Us  
& Talk

Step 4



Feel Better



If you or someone you know  
is experiencing overwhelming anxiety or  
grief, reach out to talk to someone  
free and anonymous at  
505-954-1057  
**Help is available.**

You are not alone.  
Reach out anytime & anywhere.

**Free and anonymous talk counseling.**

Call 505-954-1057

**TALK:** COVID Crisis Counseling



HUMAN SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT

Behavioral Health Services Division  
New Mexico Crisis and Access Line



## *Off the beaten path...*



### THREE REMOTE SANDOVAL COUNTY TREKS

Though these trailheads are off regularly maintained roads, they are not paved. Conditions of roads can change at any time due to weather. Drivers should avoid dirt roads during rain or snow. Drivers should be cautious of wash-out following rain or snow melt.

Camping in the Wilderness is a rewarding experience, but often there are no water sources. Visitors must carry all the water they will need for the duration of the trip.

Perea Nature Trail- From Bernalillo, travel about 20 miles north on US 550, cross the Rio Salado bridge and turn left (west) on the paved access road just before the village of San Ysidro. A brown state highway recreation sign is posted on US 550 at the turnoff.

White Ridge bike trails-Traveling northwest toward Cuba on US 550 from Bernalillo, the drive is approximately 20 miles. Before San Ysidro (about two miles), turn left onto Cabezon Road (County Road 906) at the intersection of Cabezon Road and US 550. Follow the left fork. Travel 4.4 miles to the gravel parking lot.

Seismosaurus Trailhead/Ojito Wilderness – From Bernalillo, travel on U.S. 550 about 21 miles (about 2 miles before San Ysidro) turning left onto Cabezon Road (County Road 906). Follow the left fork approximately 9 1/4 miles to an Ojito Wilderness sign. Continue almost 3/4 mile to parking area on the left. A trail leads north, across the road and through a fence, into the Wilderness.

Hoodoo Trailhead/Ojito Wilderness- From Bernalillo, travel on U.S. 550 about 21 miles (about 2 miles before San Ysidro) turning left onto Cabezon Road (County Road 906). Follow the left fork approximately 9 1/4 miles to an Ojito Wilderness sign. Continue almost 3/4 mile to a developed parking area on the left side of the road. From the parking area, walk back about 400 feet to the east where a trail leads north into the Wilderness on the opposite side of the road.

San Pedro Parks Wilderness area – Palomas Trailhead- NM SH 126 to FR 70 to Trailhead – GET DIRECTIONS

Sandia Crest via Placitas and HWY 165- route takes you past Sandia Man Cave and the drive contains stunning vistas – GET DIRECTIONS

Abiquiu Dam Lake-Outside of Sandoval but does have lake access. Verified open for day use only but -NO boating-as of 5.19.20. CHECK LAKE STATUS