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NEWS RELEASE

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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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Restaurant and food delivery service employees: Wear gloves and face coverings

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) recommends that employees working in restaurants, food establishments and grocery stores wear gloves and a face covering when providing customers take-out, door/curbside service, or delivering food.

“Wearing a face covering and gloves is an essential step restaurants and food delivery services can take to fight the spread of COVID-19,” said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “The Environment Department is ensuring these best practices are followed by conducting routine and complaint-based inspections of restaurants.”

Most people – including employees in the food service industry - should avoid using N-95 respirators or surgical masks, as these should be reserved for medical personnel. Using gloves and face coverings does not diminish the importance of maintaining social distancing of at least six feet and utilizing proper handwashing techniques.

The New Mexico Department of Health recommends that New Mexicans wear cloth, non-medical face coverings when traveling outside the home for essential outings in alignment with guidance from the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control](#).

Learn how to make a face covering [here](#). Additional COVID-19 resources from NMED are available [here](#).

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