

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruet, Deputy Secretary

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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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O'Reilly Auto Parts cited for allowing COVID-19 symptomatic employees at work, violating workplace safety laws

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued [citations](#) to O'Reilly Auto Parts (O'Reilly) for violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in an unsafe workplace. The citations were issued for violations by management to protect employees from exposure to COVID-19. NMED assessed penalties of \$242,827.20 for the violations.

NMED cited the O'Reilly Auto Parts store located at 525 West Avenue in Lovington for allowing employees with COVID-19 symptoms – who ultimately tested positive for COVID-19 – to continue to work, failing to properly screen employees for COVID-19 and not following proper cleaning and disinfection protocols. This is a violation of state law, public health orders and COVID-Safe Practices, as well as O'Reilly's own internal policies. Three employees at the store were COVID-positive and one worker, a 46-year-old woman, died.

“Providing employees with a false sense of protection from COVID-19 by putting policies in place to comply with state law and then not following them is unconscionable. Had O'Reilly management complied with corporate policies, it's possible this tragic situation could have been avoided,” said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “Every employee deserves to come home from work safe and healthy, and fortunately many New Mexico businesses are doing all they can to protect their workers.”

O'Reilly has 15 business days from the date the citations were issued to pay the assessed penalties or contest the citations before the New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Commission.

NMED settled two citations with O'Reilly Auto Parts for violations of the public health order at a Santa Fe store [last month](#). In that case, O'Reilly paid \$79,200 in penalties that go to the state's general fund.

Any penalties collected in this matter will go to the state general fund, the primary state fund from which the ongoing expenses of state government are paid.

To report unsafe working conditions, email complaints.osha@state.nm.us. You may remain anonymous.

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Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2855 or nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

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