



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Governor

PATRICK M. ALLEN
Cabinet Secretary

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SECRETARY PATRICK M. ALLEN**

September 8, 2023

**Public Health Emergency Order Imposing Temporary Firearm
Restrictions, Drug Monitoring and Other Public Safety Measures**

WHEREAS, for the reasons stated in Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's Executive Orders 2023-130 and 2023-132, gun violence and drug abuse currently constitute statewide public health emergencies, as defined in the Public Health Emergency Response Act;

WHEREAS, pursuant to those Executive Orders, I have begun collaborating with the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, and the Governor's Office to provide an effective and coordinated response to these public health emergencies;

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Health possesses legal authority pursuant to the Public Health Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 24-1-1 to -40, the Public Health Emergency Response Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10A-1 to -19, the Department of Health Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 9-7-1 to -18, and inherent constitutional police powers of the New Mexico state government to preserve and promote public health and safety, to maintain and enforce rules for the control of a condition of public health importance; and

WHEREAS, temporary firearm restrictions, drug monitoring, and other public safety measures are necessary to address the current public health emergencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patrick M. Allen, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health, in accordance with authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Mexico, and as directed by the Governor pursuant to the full scope of emergency powers under the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, do hereby **DECLARE** that gun violence and drug use constitute conditions of public health importance, as defined in NMSA 1978, Section 24-1-2(A), and hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

(1) No person, other than a law enforcement officer or licensed security officer, shall possess a firearm, as defined in NMSA 1978, Section 30-7-4.1, either openly or concealed, within cities or counties averaging 1,000 or more violent crimes per 100,000 residents per year since 2021 according to Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program AND more than 90 firearm-related emergency department visits per 100,000 residents from July 2022 to June 2023 according to the New Mexico Department of Public Health, except:

A. On private property owned or immediately controlled by the person;

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B. On private property that is not open to the public with the express permission of the person who owns or immediately controls such property;

C. While on the premises of a licensed firearms dealer or gunsmith for the purpose of lawful transfer or repair of a firearm;

D. While engaged in the legal use of a firearm at a properly licensed firing range or sport shooting competition venue; or

E. While traveling to or from a location listed in Paragraphs (1) through (4) of this section; provided that the firearm is in a locked container or locked with a firearm safety device that renders the firearm inoperable, such as a trigger lock.

(2) The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department shall conduct monthly inspections of licensed firearms dealers in the State to ensure compliance with all sales and storage laws.

(3) The Department of Health shall, within 20 days, compile and issue a comprehensive report on gunshot victims presenting at hospitals in New Mexico, which shall include (if available): demographic data of gunshot victims, including age, gender, race, and ethnicity; data on gunshot victim's healthcare outcomes; the brand and caliber of the firearm used; the general circumstances leading to the injury; the impact of gunshot victims on New Mexico's healthcare system; and any other pertinent information.

(4) No person, other than a law enforcement officer or licensed security officer, shall possess a firearm on state property, public schools, and public parks.

(5) The New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Environmental Department shall develop a program to conduct wastewater testing for illicit substances, such as fentanyl, at all public schools.

(6) The Children, Youth and Families Department shall immediately suspend the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative and evaluate juvenile probation protocols.

(7) The Department of Public Safety shall dispatch additional officers and resources to Bernalillo County and work with the Albuquerque Police Department and Bernalillo County Sheriff to determine the best use of those resources.

(8) The Department of Public Safety shall coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and the district attorneys' offices and assist in apprehension of individuals with outstanding arrest warrants.

I FURTHER DIRECT as follows:

(1) This Order shall be broadly disseminated in English, Spanish, and other appropriate languages to the citizens of the State of New Mexico.

(2) Trigger locks shall be made available free of charge to all firearm owners; provided that each firearm owner shall only be entitled to one free trigger lock. Firearm owners wishing to obtain a free trigger lock should call 505-984-3085 or email info@newmexicanstoppreventgunviolence.org.

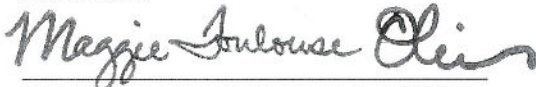
(3) The New Mexico Department of Health, the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and all other State departments and agencies are authorized to take all appropriate steps to ensure compliance with this Order.

(4) Any person or entity who willfully violates this Order may be subject to civil administrative penalties available at law.

(5) This Order shall take effect on September 8, 2023, and remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergencies declared in Executive Orders 2023-130 and 2023-132 and any subsequent renewals of those public health emergency declarations, unless otherwise rescinded.

(6) Should any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstances be held invalid by a court of law, the remainder of this Order or the application of its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall remain in full force and effect.

ATTEST:



MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO



PATRICK M. ALLEN
SECRETARY OF THE
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

