



NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

Office of the President and Superintendent

101 West College Boulevard
Roswell, New Mexico 88201-5173



19 October, 2020

NMMI COVID Situation Update: Daily Update and FAQ's

Each day we will update the overall situation at NMMI and add to the Frequently Asked Questions at the end of the update.

Let me start with a quick summary of what caused us to go into a quarantine status. Last Wednesday, October 14th, we were notified about the positive test results of two NMMI Cadets. NMMI was not aware that the tests had been administered and as a result the two individuals had not been in isolation or quarantine, pending the test results. Once the results were known, the two individuals were placed in isolation and close contact, contact tracing was initiated. It quickly became obvious due to the length of time that occurred, that it was impossible to accurately identify all who would meet the close contact criteria. At that point we notified the NM Department of Health and the NM Department of Higher Education. Both Departments pledged their support, provided test kits and personnel and the decision was made to pause all scheduled activities and test the entire Corps of Cadets, as well as Staff and Faculty. All Cadets were tested on Thursday, October 15th and Staff and Faculty on Friday, October 16th.

As I write this update, we still do not have test results back on all Cadets. Of our Staff and Faculty, with approximately 320 employees, we had two positive tests. Of the approximately 700 Cadets that were tested, right now we have been notified of 60 positive cases.

Continuing to work with our State authorities and following CDC guidelines, all Cadets testing positive have been placed in isolation. Because of the difficulty in identifying “close contact” individuals, and out of safety for all involved, we made the decision to declare the remainder of the Corps, close contact. All positive individuals are in isolation and the remainder of the Corps are in quarantine.

The quarantine will remain in effect through Thursday, October 29th. In communication with the Faculty, they asked that online education continue through Friday, October, 30th, so as to prevent a conversion from online to in-class for one day. In-class instruction will resume on Monday, November 2nd.

I don't want to try to answer all of the questions that have been posed, in my update. We will try to do that in the Frequently Asked Questions” section below and we will update the questions and answers on a daily basis. However, there is one question that is clearly the number one question we have been asked and that is, “Why are only New Mexico Cadets allowed to go home for the quarantine period?” The answer is not one NMMI

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controls or can deviate from. The current Health Order in effect for the entire State of New Mexico, states that if you leave the state and then return, or if you are an out-of-state visitor and enter New Mexico, you must go into 14-day quarantine. To allow anyone to leave and go across the state line, would require them to enter a second 14-day quarantine period when they return.

I hope that you will read this entire update, especially the Frequently Asked Questions. I believe they will answer some if not all of your questions. I have one request in closing. Please contact us for any question you have. You certainly have the right to contact any Department in New Mexico State Government, to include the Governor. However, they do not know the answer, they will have to contact us to try to answer your questions. The same request or comment goes for social media. We use social media on a continuing basis to communicate with our constituents. However, you can only rely on someone who is an NMMI employee to provide accurate, factual information in a timely manner. When you review this update and the FAQ's, you will find contact information for NMMI. Please use the listed contact information to receive the information you need.

Respectfully,

Jerry Grizzle

MG Jerry W. Grizzle (USA Retired), PhD
President and Superintendent
New Mexico Military Institute
Roswell, N.M. 88201

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NMMI COVID-19 QUARANTINE FAQ'S

Below is a series of questions related to our recent quarantine and other COVID-19 questions. If you have any additional questions that are not answered here, please contact your cadet's TLA/SLA. See the last page for a directory of those contacts. If you require other contacts, please visit our website at: <https://www.nmmi.edu/directory/>

Why is NMMI undergoing a quarantine?

NMMI recently met with a large contingent of staff and faculty, parents and medical advisers, to discuss the way forward for the rest of the semester. In order to mitigate further positive cases, **NMMI is mandating a 14-day quarantine for the entire Corps of Cadets effective from Monday 19 October, 2020 through Thursday 29 October, 2020.**

Currently NMMI has 57 on-post active cases. [See our Dashboard for more information.](#)

Can a cadet return home for the quarantine?

- Only cadets from New Mexico will be allowed to return to their homes for quarantine. NMDOH has a strict policy regarding quarantine protocols for crossing state lines requiring a 14 day quarantine upon returning to NM. If you are not a New Mexico Resident, you are authorized to quarantine in New Mexico with a sponsor.
 - NOTE: NM cadets must have a negative test result verified by the infirmary. If they have not received their test result, they must wait until results are in. We expect the remaining results by mid-week Monday, 19 October 2020.
- NM cadets do not *have* to go home.
- NM cadets will be double tested upon returning to Post.
 - If they are found to be positive for COVID, they will be isolated for 10 days from the positive result date.
 - The cadets will bear any costs associated with the tests.
 - The local lab charges \$200 per test.
 - The NM Department of Health does offer tests at no cost, but the turn-around time has been slow.
 - The double test protocol requires 4 days quarantine between the two tests.
- NM cadets and/or guardians must sign the infirmary quarantine affidavit prior to checking out. A signed copy of this affidavit must be left with your TLA/SLA or command post. The affidavit is a promise to quarantine at home.

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- NM cadets must sign out with their TLA/SLA or command in NPF post prior to departing. A good contact number must be provided. Do not go to the infirmary to sign out.
- Cadets under 18 must have approval from parent / guardian coordinated with TLA/SLA.

What if a cadet departs for the remainder of the semester?

- In accordance with NMMI's existing policies, those that determine to depart for the remainder of the semester will be withdrawn from NMMI. Cadets deciding to return at a later date will be a Break-in-service student and required to re-apply.

How will instruction be delivered?

- During quarantine, all cadets will receive instruction from NMMI through distance delivery learning. Details of this will be forthcoming through individual faculty. Cadets should contact their instructor or adviser if they have any questions.

Will my cadet be tested if they have no symptoms?

- NMMI will provide rapid testing for cadets with symptoms, no matter how slight. Infirmary staff will determine to apply a PCR test if rapid test is negative and cadet has any symptoms.

How and by whom is the infirmary staffed?

- We are open and available to cadets 24/7.
- Clinic times with our on-site providers, Tuesday 4-6pm, Friday 8-10 am. Our doctor's clinic schedule varies for the infirmary; however, times are always listed ahead of time on the infirmary clinic calendar
- Sick Call – 0700 for all cadets with the exception of Isolation cadets who have a call number.
- Scheduled medical appointments - Cadets with appointments offsite are handled as usual.
- **The infirmary is available for sick call and emergencies only.** The infirmary is managing care for cadets in isolation and those in quarantine. Please do not go to or contact the infirmary for non-medical questions.

How will cadets and families be notified of positive COVID test results? And how will positive cases be handled on post?

- For minors, parents will be notified by the infirmary if their cadet tests positive; all adult cadets must inform their parents of any positive results.

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- Cadets who are currently positive or who are found to be positive with any subsequent testing will be kept in isolation.
- Cadets who are in medical isolation or identified as close-contact quarantine will be interviewed daily by NMMI medical staff for COVID symptoms.

I am concerned about the mental health of my cadet. Who should I be in contact with and what supports are there?

- The first contact should always be to your cadet's Troop Leadership Advisor (TLA) or Squadron Leadership Advisor (SLA). For a complete list of contact numbers, see last page.
- You may also contact the infirmary at (575) 624-8235 or Chaplain Mace at (575) 624-8211.
- Chaplain Mace has a list of local counselors he can provide to families who are in need of additional referrals. NMMI is also in the process of hiring some life coaches to support our cadets.

How will meals be provided?

- During the quarantine period, all meals will be delivered to the corps at Hagerman or Saunders barracks. Once the quarantine period has ended and through the remainder of the semester via Bates grab-and-go.
- We will deliver by squadron to provide ample time to produce, box, and deliver. These time windows will allow for meals to stay warm and maintain quality.
 - Meal times:
BRC 0730-0930
DRC 1130-1330
SRC 1730-1930
- We will provide a snack back daily during SRC in lieu of 4th meal during the entire quarantine period.
- We will provide and monitor/replenish water stations with touchless spigots at the barracks effective DRC tomorrow (3 in Hagerman, 2 in Saunders). Assorted soft drinks will be provided with boxed meals as well.
- Cadets with special diets – based on the type of restrictions, these meals will need to be picked up and delivered by the Commandant's staff at Bates for efficiency purposes.

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Will cadets be given a chance to get outside and exercise?

- Yes. Daily, each troop will break out into socially distanced groups for outdoor activities organized and supervised by the Athletics department. Masks will be worn during these activities.

Will cadets have access to laundry, mailroom, barber shop, PX during quarantine?

- Yes. a rotation by troop has been arranged to ensure adequate access for cadets during the quarantine period. Cadets will have access to mail twice per week.

What restrictions will there be during quarantine and for the rest of the semester for visitors/access to post?

- No visitors will be allowed on post; parents will be limited to special considerations / emergencies only and must be supervised. If the cadet is to remain on post, the visit must adhere to the social distancing protocols.
- Off-campus food delivery will be considered once we are through the quarantine period of two weeks. If there are significant 5+ isolation cases or quarantine 10+, no off-site food service will be allowed.
- Parent visits will be limited to special considerations / emergencies only and must be supervised. If the cadet is to remain on post the visit must adhere to the social distancing protocols during the visit. We are asking the local families and parents to realize the majority of the corps does not have the ability to come and visit them.
- All NMMI facilities will remain closed to the public for the 5 weeks.
- Vendors will be screened and have identification and required to have no contact with corps members.

Will Bates dining be open for cadets after the quarantine?

- Bates will continue to provide grab-and-go food service once quarantine period is over.
- Cadets may choose to sit in the Bates and eat, but only at intervals provided behind barriers. No grouping of seats. Doing so will be considered an endangerment action.

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How will cleaning protocols be implemented during quarantine?

- Cadets may make requests for cleaning and disinfecting items for their rooms via their TLAs.
- NMMI facilities group will be providing additional services for trash removal.
- NMMI will continue to perform elevated cleaning and disinfecting operations in the sink rooms, commons, classrooms, and other buildings on a daily and weekly basis.

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SQUADRON/TROOP LEADERSHIP ADVISORS

First Squadron: Troop HQ, A, B, C, D (Hagerman Barracks, East)

1st Squadron SLA: LTC Tina Lueras, NMMI (575) 624-8461 or lueras@nmmi.edu

- Alpha TLA: LTC Shaun McArthur, USA – (575) 624-8466 or mcarthur@nmmi.edu
- Bravo TLA: MAJ John Barbour, NMMI – (575) 624-8479 or Barbour@nmmi.edu
- Charlie TLA: CSM Charles Kincaid – (575) 624-8464 or kincaid@nmmi.edu
- Delta TLA: LTC Tina Lueras, NMMI (575) 624-8461 or lueras@nmmi.edu
- HQ TLA: CPT Collette Lucero, NMMI (575) 624-8474 or clucero@nmmi.edu

Second Squadron: Troop E, F, G, H, I (Hagerman Barracks, West)

2nd Squadron SLA: LTC Robert Romero, NMMI, USMC (Ret) – (575) 624-8468 or RomeroR@nmmi.edu

- Echo TLA: CPT Melissa Whitsell – (575) 624-8462 or whitsell@nmmi.edu
- Foxtrot TLA: CPT Mary Dawe – (575) 624-8470 or mdawe@nmmi.edu
- Golf TLA: CPT James Melton, USAF (Ret) – (575) 624-8463 or melton@NMMI.edu
- Hotel TLA: CPT Kameron Dudek, NMMI – (575) 624-8477 or dudek@nmmi.edu
- India Troop – LTC Robert Romero, NMMI, USMC (Ret) – (575) 624-8468 or RomeroR@nmmi.edu

Third Squadron: Troop K, L, M, N, O (Saunders Barracks)

3rd Squadron SLA: LTC Valerie Broesamle, USA (575) 624-8460 or broesamle2@nmmi.edu

- Kilo TLA: CPT Lynn Doherty, NMMI – (575) 624-8113 or doherty@nmmi.edu
- Lima TLA: LTC Valerie Broesamle, USA (575) 624-8460 or broesamle2@nmmi.edu
- Mike TLA: CPT Margaret Novak, NMMI – (575) 624-8467 novak@nmmi.edu
- November TLA: MAJ Kirk Klingsmith USMC (Ret) – (575) 624-8465
- Oscar TLA: CPT Brian Wright, USN – (575) 624-8469

TLA Command Post (24/7 Operations, all non-emergency calls)

- 575-624-8478
- 575-624-8163