



NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

Office of the President / Superintendent

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TO: NMMI Constituents

FROM: MG Jerry W. Grizzle

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Re: Update

Let me start with an explanation as to why I have not been able to provide a weekly update so far this semester. The simple answer is we are in a very dynamic changing situation that before I could produce an update and make distribution, much of the information would not be accurate. I would rather hold off on the frequency of the updates and make sure the information we provide is accurate and current.

We are learning that every action is driven by testing and test results. In between testing, you conduct screening. We began testing of employees of December 29, 2021. To date we have tested 374 employees with 7 positive results. We began testing Cadets on January 4, 2021. To date we have tested 807 Cadets with 31 positive results. Some information I provide will be repetitive, I apologize, but it is important to remember all of the parameters we have to work within. The number of tests we administer will not equal the number of Cadets on Post. The reason is anyone previously testing positive within 90 days is considered immune and does not have to test.

Things have changed since the first semester. The first semester we had to quarantine for 14 days and isolate for 10 days. Now, we test immediately, isolate while waiting for test results, if negative, we can immediately release. If positive, the days held while waiting for results count for the 10 day required holding period. Individual stays in isolation until they reach the 10 day point and then they are released to the Corps, providing they have remained asymptomatic the entire 10 days.

Since my last update several things have happened. The State of NM issued plan for Intercollegiate Athletics to begin playing. The plan required two things, the development of a plan by each Institution as to how they would comply with the state requirements and the Institution's plan had to be approved by the Institution's Board of Regents before it was submitted to the State. We have accomplished both of those tasks. We developed a plan of compliance and our Board of Regents approved the plan on January 21, 2021. Our Bronco Volleyball, Basketball and Baseball, teams have now played out of state games in compliance with those plans.

The state plan requires athletes to be COVID tested three times per week. We have been able to acquire our own full PCR rapid test machine. The machine will batch test up to 60 tests at once and provide the results in two hours or less. This will allow us to meet the state requirement of three tests per week for athletes and the additional requirement of testing all teams within 48 hours prior to a game or leaving the state to play a game and testing 48 hours after the game or returning to the state.

The next thing that has happened is the Governor of NM has allowed public schools to start reopening on February 8th and High School sports to begin on February 22nd, both events contingent upon meeting certain criteria. At this point the state has not issued testing or screening protocols for High School



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sports but they have released start dates by sport. As soon as we have the dates and the schedules for our games, we will post them on our website.

High school sports will all be played within the state. Junior College games will all be played out of state. There are no prohibitions from a team coming into to NM to play us except they must agree to the same testing and quarantine requirements as a NM team. Because of these restrictions, we do not believe any out-of-state teams will come to NM to play a game. Therefore, our Coaches are planning for all games to be played on the road. For football, our "home" games will be played in Seminole, TX. Our "away" games will be played as scheduled.

We are focusing on quality of life issues in the Corps. This past weekend we had our first guest food vendor. With the help and cooperation of Sodexo, they arranged for a local restaurant to come and provide their menu for the Cadets. It was a great success and they came back a second time over the weekend. Sodexo is now reaching out to other vendors in the area to make similar arrangements. The vendors must be screened and or tested before they come on Post. We are also working with local food trucks. All restaurants and food vendors in the state must have completed a food safety course to be open. Any vendor that we work with will have completed this training in addition to our screening and or testing. We will continue to prohibit food delivery services such as Grub Hub to deliver to the Post.

We have purchased a number of over-sized games that can be used on an individual or Troop basis. King sized chess sets, dominoes, checkers. We are planning an outdoor Super Bowl party. A local advertising company has a portable screen mounted on a flatbed truck that we intent to pull on Colt field and have Sodexo set up their food trailers like they do for home football games.

Bronco Challenge was a huge success last weekend despite gale force winds. That event was followed by the Matchin awards conducted inside the box to block the wind.

We are working diligently to find ways, within the constraints of the current health order, to conduct events in a regular fashion. As long as we follow social distancing, wear masks, don't gather in groups larger than five, we can do a number of things and stay in compliance.