



NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE
Office of the President and Superintendent
101 West College Boulevard
Roswell, New Mexico 88201-5173



15 October, 2020

NMMI COVID Situation Update

On Wednesday, 14 October, NMMI was made aware of a cadet who had tested positive for COVID-19. The cadet was apparently tested by an individual from off of the Post sometime during the prior weekend and thus allowed to continue to participate in corps activities since the test was administered. As it turned out, not just the one, but two cadets were provided a test by the same outside entity. Thus, what we believed we had understood as the contained group of prior COVID positives, we no longer believed. We quickly met, assessed the circumstances, considered the probabilities and examined our options. With the added and timely circumstance of the loss of our internet, which complicated educational and operational matters, we determined the best course of action regarding the safety of the corps, faculty and staff was a re-set of sorts. That is to complete a 100% re-test of the NMMI family to best understand the spread of the COVID at NMMI. From those we have tested, we have learned very few have been found to be positive, and of those positives, most all are asymptomatic but if even one is left to the greater population there is risk.

We began our retest immediately on Wednesday evening, October 13th with over 100 cadets through the support and cooperation of the New Mexico Department of Health as well as Department of Higher Education. They not only supplied the tests, but assured that our tests would receive priority on return. Our local laboratory, Pathology Consultants of New Mexico stepped up and offered to support NMMI's rapid response by testing the balance of the corps on Thursday morning. Approximately 575 cadets were processed through the testing in two hours. The staff and faculty will be tested by PCNM on Friday, October 16th. All cadets who are cleared from the testing and not either in a quarantine or isolation status will be provided vinyl armbands. Without these bands, the cadets will not be allowed in academic or other buildings and assumed to be a

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quarantine cadet. Finally, we will have and plan to deploy rapid tests which will allow us to measure an individual or the entire corps on a rapid to weekly basis for the remainder of the fall, only 5 weeks.

It is incumbent on our staff, faculty and cadets to maintain the rigors of the protocols to mitigate the risk of COVID to any one of us. This is a real disease and situations either here on post or at home are not easy. We can get through this by working together.

Again, as we progress through the situation, we will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Jerry Grizzle

MG J. Grizzle (USA Retired)
President and Superintendent
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