FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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COVID-19 testing available for New Mexico utility workers

Testing slots available from 8 to 11 a.m. every Monday at Dept. of Health field offices

New Mexico's utility workers have been hard at work throughout the COVID-19 crisis, ensuring critical infrastructure continues to provide reliable drinking water, electricity and wastewater services throughout the state. As part of an effort to keep this essential workforce safe and healthy, as well as to assist the state in identifying, isolating and tracing new cases, the Department of Health has designated special statewide COVID-19 testing hours for all utility workers.

"We are grateful for our utility workers, who continue their hard and important work throughout this pandemic," said New Mexico Environment Department Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. "It is imperative they are able to safely and responsibly do their jobs. To that end, I urge all service providers of electricity, natural gas, drinking water, and wastewater to encourage their employees to get tested for COVID-19. An outbreak at such a utility could have devastating consequences for these critical workforces and impact communities throughout New Mexico."

"Broadscale testing will ultimately result in more lives saved," said Department of Health Cabinet Secretary Kathy Kunkel. "Even as we reopen, COVID-19 is still out there, and we must continue to be vigilant."

"I am thankful for our employees who have been working tirelessly to provide reliable electricity to the homes, businesses and first responders who need it the most," said Pat Vincent-Collawn, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of PNM. "With the help of the State of New Mexico, PNM proactively organized several testing centers for our critical employees. Broad testing helps keep our employees safe, and with the added benefit of contact tracing, helps slow the spread of this vicious disease."

"We wish to thank the Water Authority employees whose dedication and hard work have ensured the continued delivery of safe drinking water and reliable sewer service in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County throughout the pandemic," said Klarissa Peña, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Board Chairperson. "In the interest of their health and safety, and that of the public, we are encouraging all our employees to get tested for COVID-19, and very much appreciate efforts by the State of New Mexico to help make that possible."

"The data provided by testing increases safety in the workplace," said John Foster, Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Generation. "We are grateful to the State of New Mexico for their leadership on this important initiative."

Many people who are infected with coronavirus may not experience any symptoms while still having the potential to pass the virus onto others, making largescale testing incredibly important in preventing its spread – and keeping New Mexico on a path toward reopening the economy.

If proactive testing identifies a positive case, the New Mexico Environment Department and Department of Health will contact the employer about the appropriate next steps to take to prevent the spread of the virus, including disinfection and follow-up testing. Proactive testing can minimize disruption to operations.

Testing will be available from 8 to 11 a.m. every Monday, beginning June 15, at the locations listed. Testing is free, but those who have insurance should bring their card with them. Appointments are required and must be scheduled by noon the preceding Friday by calling a local public health office.

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Artesia PHO	1001 Memorial Dr.	Artesia	88210	575-746-9819
Carlsbad PHO	1306 W. Stevens	Carlsbad	88220	575-885-4191
Clovis PHO	1216 Cameo St.	Clovis	88101	575-763-5583
Ft. Sumner PHO	514 Ave. C	Ft. Sumner	88119	575-355-3262
Hobbs PHO	1923 N. Dal Paso	Hobbs	88240	575-397-2463
Lovington PHO	302 N. 5th St.	Lovington	88260	575-396-2853
Portales PHO	1513 W. Fir	Portales	88130	575-356-4453
Roswell PHO	200 E. Chisum	Roswell	88201	575-624-6050
Ruidoso PHO	111 Kansas City Rd.	Ruidoso	88345	575-258-3252
Tucumcari PHO	310 S. 2nd St.	Tucumcari	88401	575-461-2610
Las Cruces PHO	1170 N. Solano	Las Cruces	88001	575-528-5063
Anthony PHO	865 N. Anthony Drive	Anthony	88021	575-882-5858 X4
Sunland Park	3807 McNutt Rd.	Sunland Park	88063	575-589-2543 X4
Grant Co PHO	2610 N. Silver	Silver City	88061	575-538-5318 X4
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