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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NMCD announces update on prison facility COVID restrictions

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Corrections Department announced Friday plans to ease certain COVID-19 restrictions at prison facilities in New Mexico.

Over the course of the pandemic, numerous preventive measures and restrictions have been in place at each prison facility in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. With over 70% of the inmate population having received at least one shot of the vaccine, NMCD will be easing certain restrictions.

As of June 1st, all NMCD prison facilities were opened to scheduled non-contact in-person inmate visitation by approved legal representatives. On June 14th the facilities will be open to the general public for in-person visitation for approved visitors as well as volunteers. Anyone who is an approved visitor may begin to schedule in-person visits starting today.

Individuals seeking to enter facilities for in-person legal or family visitation or to provide volunteer services will be required to follow the below guidelines:

- All visitors at every facility must pass a COVID-19 screening upon entry to the facility
- All visitors will be required to wear a face covering
- All visitors will be required to provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- Only inmates who are fully vaccinated will be approved for in-person visitation
- Face-to-face non-contact visits will be limited to one (1) visitor at a time per inmate
- All face-to-face non-contact visits will need to be scheduled and approved in advance

Individuals who wish to visit a loved one in any of the 11 prison facilities will need to apply and be approved for visitation. Incarcerated individuals will need to request they be added to the visiting list and upon the request, the proper forms will then be mailed to the applicant to complete and return to the prison facility for processing. After processing, the applicant will be notified by the facility whether they have been approved or denied. Video visitation will continue to be available to the inmate population and families at no cost.

The New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Lottery recently announced New Mexico's Vax 2 the Max Sweepstakes, a statewide vaccination incentive program that will make available $10 million in total prize money to New Mexicans who receive their COVID-19 vaccinations, among other prizes and awards throughout the summer. New Mexicans can register and schedule their COVID-19 vaccinations at **vaccinenm.org**. To be eligible for the cash sweepstakes, New Mexicans who receive or have already received their COVID-19 vaccinations must opt in to register and verify their personal and vaccination information at vax2themaxnm.org.

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