

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | **PRESIDENT**

MYRON LIZER | **VICE PRESIDENT**



April 14, 2021

Dear School Leader and Governing School Board President,

Public Health Emergency Order 2021-008 reinstates a shelter-in-place order given the new variants of COVID-19 identified on the Navajo Nation. This Order is indefinite. The Nation continues to remain in a Major Disaster Declaration for the COVID-19 pandemic.

As has been widely reported, the Navajo Nation has been severely impacted by COVID-19. The most recent Navajo Nation situation report records over 30,269 infections and over 1,262 deaths. We continue to watch COVID-19 cases closely, particularly now that the Navajo Nation has documented cases of the highly contagious S UK and California variants. The Nation is seeing early indications of a worrisome trend and our public health experts are trying to prevent a third surge of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation. Due to this increase in cases, the Nation is returning to a stay-at-home directive.

In the last few weeks, COVID-19 outbreaks are on the rise at schools within the Navajo Nation. These outbreaks and infections are preventable and manageable when schools provide virtual and on-line learning only.

The Nation is adamant that you respect the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation and our decision to protect the health and welfare of Navajo Nation citizens, abide by Public Health Emergency Order 2021-008, and provide virtual and on-line learning only. Ahéheé’.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Nez in black ink.

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Handwritten signature of Myron Lizer in black ink.

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

cc: OPVP File