



New Mexico  
Social Justice &  
Equity Institute

*NMSJEI Newsletter: Volume I , Issue I*

*Editor: Jayme Yancy*

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*History*

NMSJEI originally began in 2013 operating under the name of McKinley Community Place Matters. Because another organization created a name also using the words “Place Matters”, in May of 2017 we changed the name of our organization to New Mexico Social Justice Equity Institute. Since our inception in 2013, we have worked to address the health impacts of the uranium legacy. In our work, we educate the public about social determinants of health, empower and build the capacity of the community to advocate for civil rights issues and we conduct research.



2013, McKinley Collaborative for Health Equity, Navajo Birth Cohort Study, McKinley Health Alliance, NM Department of Health, NM Health Equity Partnership, Western New Mexico University (photo courtesy of Anna Rondon, Board Member 2013 to 2017 (NMSJEI))

Over the years, NMSJEI has sponsored training to build community capacity and leadership skills working primarily within rural areas and American Indian communities. We also have and continue to sponsor training and provide technical assistance on conducting health impact assessments, an assessment tool intended to produce a set of evidence-based recommendations to inform decision-making. Through our organization's history of conducting health impact assessments, we are developing expertise in conducting health impact assessments that seek to maximize the positive health impacts and minimize the negative health impacts of proposed policies, programs, and projects. Specifically, we participate in organizing health impact assessment training for place-based teams and Health Councils, working with partners in the NW New Mexico region.

Culturally, we are a rich and strong community-based organization, skilled in grassroots organizing and composed of individuals from Navajo, Zuni, Laguna, Isleta nations, communities of color, low wealth and frontier rural areas. Furthermore, many of us have been impacted directly by environmental harms. This gives us the capacity to address health broadly and to do so with cultural sensitivity instead of focusing solely on physical or disease-related issues.

Throughout the history of the organization, the Executive Director(s) Jordan Johnson and Anna Rondon have built numerous collaborative relationships and conduct work with organizational partners such as the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership and McKinley Community Health Alliance and we work closely with community members and volunteers. We also have contracted with consultants to assist with completing our health impact assessment. Recently we have focused on addressing the health impacts of the uranium legacy in McKinley County.





Facilitator Community Voices Session: Lilly-Irvin Vitela  
 Infographic of The Institute's Strategy Session done by Taslim van Hattum, 2022

## **Meet Our New Staff**

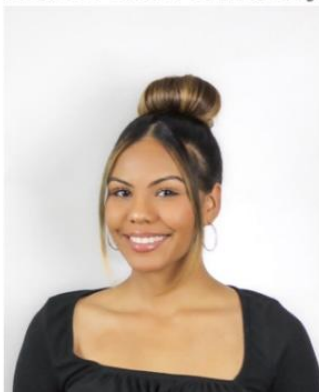
### **Stephany Strahle, Marketing Director**

Stephany Strahle serves as the Marketing Director for the New Mexico Social Justice & Equity Institute and the Institute's vaccine equity initiative, the Northwest New Mexico Vaccine Equity working group. She is a recent graduate from UNM's College of Population Health BSPH program where she gained experience in public health, political science, and chemistry. Her primary interests in public health are in health policy, women's issues, reproductive and sexual health, health disparities, and health communication.



### **Jayne Yancy, Co-Creative Media Director & Dine' Youth Outreach**

Jayne Yancy works as Co-Creative Director and Dine' Youth Outreach. While assisting in website development and social media integration strategies, Jayme reaches out to the youth and various organizations. Doing so she is able to introduce our organization and collaborate with other organizations throughout New Mexico. She is from Gallup, New Mexico and recently graduated New Mexico State University with a Bachelor's degree in Public Health.



## **FREE AT HOME COVID-19 TEST KITS AVAILABLE**

**24/7 TESTS AVAILABLE AT HOME**

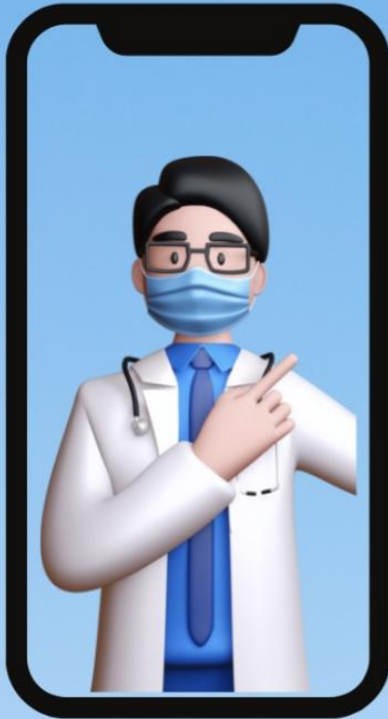
If you are feeling the symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested, services available for at-home COVID-19 tests are linked below.

**COVIDtests.gov : Shipped in 7-12 days**

**Accesscovidtest.org : Shipped in 2-5 days**

To find a location near you visit:  
**FindaTestNM.org**

# WELLNESS TIPS



✓ **WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY**

✓ **COVER YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU COUGH**

✓ **GET MORE SLEEP**

✓ **DRINK LOTS OF WATER**

✓ **MANAGE YOUR STRESS**

**STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK**



**ITEMS TO STOCK UP ON**

**MASKS**

**COVID-19 TEST KITS**

**WATER**

**HAND SANITIZER**

**FOOD SUPPLIES**

**CLEANING SUPPLIES**

**@NMSOCIALJUSTICE**







## **PROTECTING YOURSELF & EACH OTHER FROM THE COVID-19 OMICRON VARIANT**

Omicron infection generally causes less severe disease than previous variants and the original COVID-19 virus.

However, some individuals could still experience severe illness, need hospitalization, or experience death with Omicron infection.

## **WHAT WE KNOW**

Current vaccines protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths from Omicron infection.

Although breakthrough cases can happen, vaccinated individuals are less likely to develop severe illness than those who are unvaccinated.

## **HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND OTHERS?**



### **WEAR A MASK**

Preferably an N95, KN95, or KF94



### **STAY UP TO DATE ON YOUR VACCINES**

Check your local health department or clinics for vaccine appointments.



### **STAY HOME & SOCIAL DISTANCE IF SICK**

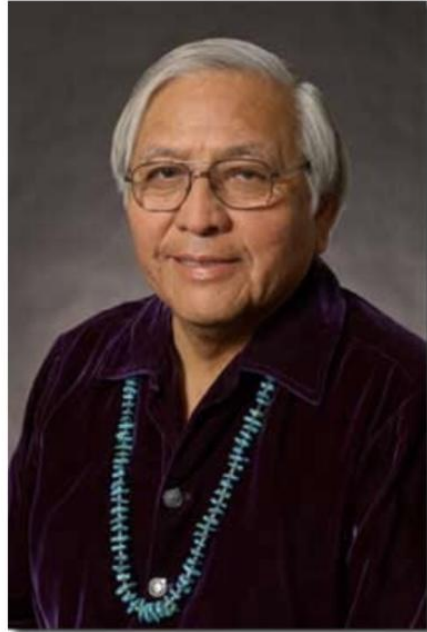
If you experience symptoms, get tested and stay home until symptoms have cleared to protect others.



Northwest New Mexico  
Vaccine Equity



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## Peterson Zah – Influential Dine’ Leader Speaks on Importance of Getting Vaccines

"Our tradition has always been to protect our children, people and culture. It is our duty and responsibility. I urge you all to get vaccinated to help save lives."

Peterson Zah was the first elected president of the Navajo Nation. Former Dine’ President speaks on the importance of health and getting vaccinated within the Dine’ community. He is an influential leader that inspires many.

[Listen to the audio here](#)



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## Racism as a Public Health Crisis Resolution

In which we hope to:

- Ensure equity in the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery
- Promote policies that are well recognized to improve public health for communities of color
- Advocate for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color & low-income communities
- Advocate for economic development opportunities designed to increase employment & income opportunities

**This resolution also calls for the Healthy Tribal membership to include more representation from communities experiencing health inequities and from those advocating for improvements.**



Resolution of The Many Farms Chapter Declaring Racial & Ethnic Health Inequities and Income Inequality in The Northeastern Arizona & Northwestern New Mexico To Be A Public Health Crisis

[Click Here To Read The Resolution](#)

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