



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-144

RENEWING STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO GUN VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, New Mexico consistently has some of the highest rates of gun violence in the nation;

WHEREAS, the rate of gun deaths in New Mexico increased 43% from 2009 to 2018, compared to an 18% increase over this same time period nationwide;

WHEREAS, guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in New Mexico, and have led to the deaths of a thirteen-year-old girl on July 28, a five-year-old girl on August 14, and an eleven-year-old boy on September 6;

WHEREAS, New Mexico has recently experienced an increasing amount of mass shootings, including mass shootings in Farmington and Red River this year;

WHEREAS, these gun-related deaths and injuries have resulted in devastating physical and emotional consequences for individuals, families, and communities throughout the State;

WHEREAS, the impact of gun violence extends beyond physical injuries and fatalities—causing emotional trauma, economic burdens, and long-lasting consequences for those affected individuals and their families;

WHEREAS, the increasing number of gunshot victims strains our already over-burdened healthcare system and places undue pressure on medical professionals and resources;

WHEREAS, after consulting with the Secretary of the Department of Health, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham determined that the foregoing situation constitutes a statewide public health emergency of unknown duration, as defined by the Public Health Emergency Response Act;

WHEREAS, the Governor also determined that the foregoing situation constitutes a man-made disaster causing or threatening widespread physical or economic harm that is beyond local control and requiring the resources of the State pursuant to the All Hazard Emergency Management Act;

WHEREAS, the Governor initially declared a state of public emergency for this situation on September 7, 2023 and subsequently renewed the declaration on October 5, 2023, and November 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, although our Administration has taken swift action to address this public health emergency, the Secretary of the Department of Health, Governor Lujan Grisham, and I have determined it is necessary to renew the declaration of public health emergency to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Howie Morales, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Mexico and acting Governor pursuant to Article V, Section 7 of the New Mexico Constitution, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby **DECLARE** that a state of public emergency exists throughout the State due to gun violence and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. The Department of Public Health, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Department of Public Safety shall continue to collaborate with the Office of the Governor to provide an effective and coordinated response to this public health emergency.

2. The Department of Finance and Administration shall make available additional emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to the Department of Health, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Environment Department, Corrections Department, and/or Department of Public Safety, in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 to -25. Funds shall be expended for the purpose of complying with this Order and shall be expended specifically to avoid and minimize economic or physical harm and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Funds shall be paid out upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of Finance and Administration upon vouchers approved by the Governor or an agent or agency designated by her for that purpose.

3. All mayors, sheriffs, and members of governing bodies of municipalities or counties are encouraged to request, if necessary, an emergency proclamation and implementation of temporary additional restrictions to address this public health emergency pursuant to the Riot Control Act.

4. All political subdivisions of the State shall comply with and enforce all directives issued pursuant to this Order.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until December 29, 2023.

ATTEST:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2023

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Howie C. Morales

HOWIE MORALES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

