



## **Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Taking All Possible Measures to Combat COVID-19**

**TAOS, NM – Nov. 17, 2020** – Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC), like many businesses in the Taos, Rio Arriba and Colfax Counties, is taking extra precautions to address the current COVID-19 pandemic in the best possible way to keep its employees and customers safe.

Since March, the cooperative has followed protocols set forth by the New Mexico Department of Health to ensure employee and customer safety, including physical distancing requirements, face masks, implementing a staggered schedule and allowing for remote work for all non-essential personnel when possible. In addition, common areas in the offices are either closed or sanitized regularly.

The organization has also closed lobby hours for customer interaction, limiting the number of people allowed in the building. KCEC representatives who come into contact with customers are required to wear face masks and maintain physical distancing. KCEC completed the NM Safe Certification process, which included a COVID-Safe Training Program to ensure customers, employees, and families remain safe when entering our locations.

Due to the strict adherence to these protocols, there were no COVID-19 cases among KCEC employees from March 12 through October 29, 2020. Since that date, however, with the increase in COVID cases in New Mexico and the U.S. overall, five KCEC employees have tested positive for the virus. Three of these employees were exposed and infected outside of work, and two tested positive after coming into close contact with an infected employee.

“The health and safety of our employees and their families is paramount. KCEC has followed every measure and immediately completed contact tracing to identify potential employees who had been in close contact with those who had tested positive, and required entire departments to quarantine and work from home as needed,” says Luis Reyes, Jr., CEO of KCEC. “We have closed and sanitized our offices with an ozone purification unit twice in order to best protect our valued employees who still come to work each day.”

KCEC continues to distribute communications that educate employees about symptoms and risks, encourage employees to practice safety measures outside of the work environment, and has ramped up further surveillance measures – including taking temperatures as employees enter the building and requiring additional safety protocols for employees who have traveled or attended large gatherings – to help reduce the spread of the virus.

“We have a duty to do everything we can to minimize our employees’ exposure and protect them from this virus while they come to work to serve our customers,” said Reyes, Jr.

Reyes, Jr. was instrumental in helping to form an organization called Enchanted Circle Community Organizations Active in Disasters (EC COAD) as a leader and primary facilitator of the Critical Infrastructure Sector, along with other local organizations. The coalition exists to bring together various private sector and non-governmental agencies, businesses,



nonprofits, faith-based groups and community leaders to address unmet need by fostering effective preparedness, response and recovery of the people of the Enchanted Circle as needed, especially in times of disaster like the COVID-19 pandemic. Members have met and shared best practices throughout 2020.

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**About Kit Carson Electric Cooperative**

Formed in 1944, Kit Carson is a member owned electric distribution cooperative in northern New Mexico and is the second largest cooperative in the state. Kit Carson is one of 16 electric cooperatives that serve rural New Mexico communities, serving nearly 30,000 members in Taos, Colfax and Rio Arriba counties. To learn more about Kit Carson, visit [www.kitcarson.com](http://www.kitcarson.com).