

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3102**

August 19, 2021

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor of New Mexico  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail #400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

We write to request that you rescind your order to require proof of vaccination for COVID-19 for those that are attending or participating in the New Mexico State Fair.

You have already imposed a mask mandate. Further imposing this vaccine mandate will prove unworkable for many who wish to enjoy our great state fair, which is a source of pride for all New Mexicans. There are very few exemptions for your recent order. Many, especially children from rural areas, will likely be unable to receive their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine in time to participate in the fair.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the single-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine is not available to children under 18 at this time, nor is the Moderna vaccine.<sup>2</sup>

Young adults, children, livestock buyers, judges, and families will not be allowed to fully enjoy this time-honored tradition of New Mexican culture. This seems like a punitive and coercive executive action rather than a real and workable solution to allow our citizens to enjoy their life and liberty.

As you know, transmission of the COVID-19 virus outdoors is rare<sup>3</sup> and those that are vaccinated are largely protected from severe symptoms.<sup>4</sup> All adults who desire to receive the COVID-19 vaccine can currently do so. In recent weeks, large sporting events and concerts have been conducted throughout the country and have not been associated with major surges in cases.

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<sup>1</sup> CDC Recommendations for Pfizer Vaccine, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Pfizer-BioNTech.html>.

<sup>2</sup> CDC Recommendation Johnson and Johnson Vaccine and Moderna, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/janssen.html>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Moderna.html>.

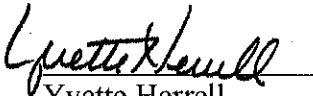
<sup>3</sup> CDC Recommendation for Outdoor Activities, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/outdoor-activities.html>

<sup>4</sup> CDC on COVID-19 Vaccination Effectiveness, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/work.html>

In order for the New Mexico State Fair to be more open and inclusive, we recommend you provide the option for participants and attendees to show a negative COVID-19 test result *or* proof of vaccination.

We ask that you remove the vaccine mandate and allow a testing option for those that are unvaccinated. This is a fair and safe solution that will accommodate all. We ask that you respond in writing by August 23, 2021.

Sincerely,

  
Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress

Cosigners:

**The Honorable James G. Townsend**  
Republican Leader  
New Mexico House of Representatives

**The Honorable Gregory A. Baca**  
Republican Leader  
New Mexico Senate

**Randell Major**  
President  
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association

CC: New Mexico State Fair Commission: **Chairman Eric Serna, Secretary-Treasurer Benny Roybal, Dr. Carol Cloer, Thomas Spindle, Trudy Healy, Danielle Lowry, and Larry Chavez Sr.**