

New Mexico Environmental Health Association
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NMEHA

What's New In New Mexico?

August 2020

UP AND COMING EVENTS:

The Fall 2020 New Mexico Environmental Health Association Conference has been canceled.

INTERNSHIP/VOLUNTEERING

Contact Bernalillo County for availability at 505-314-0310

COMMITTEES

NMEHA currently has 5 committees which include:
Auditing—Chair Melise Taylor (mtaylor@cabq.gov)
Education—Chair Sam Frank (Samuel.frank@ihs.gov)
Membership and Public Relation— vacant
Professional Advancement—Chair Kellison Platero (kplatero@bernco.gov)
IT/Internet—Chair Kaitlin Greenberg (kgreenberg@cabq.gov)

If you are interested in joining a committee please contact respective committee chair.

CALLING ALL NMEHA MEMBERS

NMEHA is currently looking for members to participate in serving in a committee! Committee members help fulfill NMEHA's mission in providing education and training opportunities. For committee opportunities or to join a committee please contact the following:

Pres.: John Rhoderick (john.rhoderick@state.nm.us)
Vice Pres.: Samuel Frank (Samuel.frank@ihs.gov)
Treasurer: Melise Taylor (mtaylor@cabq.gov)
Secretary: Kellison Platero (kplatero@bernco.gov)
Board Member: Kaitlin Greenberg (kgreenberg@cabq.gov)
Board Member: Francelli Lugo (flugo@cabq.gov)
Board Member: Ronald Angerosa (Ronald.angerosa@state.nm.us)



President's Message:

Greetings NMEHA Colleagues,

I hope that this letter finds you and yours safe and healthy. 2020 has been and continues to be a challenge to all of us who are involved in any aspect of public health. We have all been tasked with learning to perform our jobs in new and often more complicated ways because of having to work remotely, under different conditions, and with entirely new levels of stress.

Many of us have experienced the frustration from the public, friends, family, coworkers, supervisors, and internally, because of the pandemic and what all of us have been asked to do. I want you to know that we are all in this together.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the work you do in public health because we all share the toughest job in the world; Protecting People from Themselves! Know that your NMEHA Board is here to support you any way we can. Let us know if there is specific training or assistance that you need and we will do our best to connect the dots and get the resources to you.

In the coming weeks, NMEHA will be sending out questionnaires' regarding trainings, election of officers, and awards. Please look for them in your e-mail.

Again, thanks to all for the work that you do. Wishing you good health, wisdom, and a sense of humor to get through 2020.

Sincerely,

John Rhoderick

NMEHA President

Vector Course Refunds

Please make sure that your organization has received a refund for any fees collected in association with the 2020 Vector Control Course. If your organization paid by check, please consult with your fiscal team to ensure no further actions need to be taken. Should any organization have questions or concerns, they can contact NMEHA's treasurer Melise Taylor at 505-452-5308 or at mtaylor@cabq.gov.

Update from COA Urban Biology

The City of Albuquerque's Urban Biology team has maintained its full responsibilities in each of our programs. Mosquito surveillance and treatments are ongoing and some senior staff are getting the opportunity to spend more time in the field. As always, we are available for any questions or mosquito ID needs

We need your help!

Need training to maintain credentials or advance your career? NMEHA is currently seeking training opportunities in environmental health but needs your help in identifying training needs for environmental health professional in New Mexico. Please email us at newmexicoenvhelathassociation@gmail.com with trainings you'd like to see in the future.

COA Environmental Health Department Update

The City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department (EHD) Consumer Health Protection Division (CHPD) continues to assist our food facilities during the COVID-19 outbreak by conducting routine inspections, virtual compliance and safety checks, and answering questions regarding the Governor's Public Health Orders. On June 25, 2020, Mayor Tim Keller announced that the City will be waiving all permit fees for restaurants, food trucks, growers markets, and commercial swimming pools for 2020. CHPD is currently in the process of reimbursing facilities that already paid 2020 permits. In addition, the City of Albuquerque is offering expanded outdoor dining options as part of the economic recovery strategy and support for the local business community. Local restaurants can expand their dining areas outside of their normal footprint by applying for temporary outdoor dining permit online on the City's website, www.cabq.gov.

Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service Update

Like so many other environmental health professionals currently dedicating themselves to the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19, staff within the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service (IHS), Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) have been no exception. DEHS staff have worked tirelessly to adapt traditional environmental health (EH) approaches to meet the needs of American Indians and their communities served by the Albuquerque Area IHS. From developing operational guidance on COVID-19 safe practices for Tribally operated food service establishments, childcare centers and schools; to providing technical assistance on safety and infection control to federal and Tribal healthcare facilities; staff have been carrying out a wide range of community and institutional EH services to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of Tribal members and staff alike. Additionally, DEHS staff have been actively involved on the Albuquerque Area IHS Incident Command System (ICS) Team filling crucial roles including: Incident Commander, Safety and Infection Control and Prevention Officer, Logistics Support, and more. As the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic continues, DEHS will be there to answer the call in ways that only EH professionals truly can.

Bernco Update

We're moving! Bernco Health Protection will be moving to 4th and Silver Street in the spring of 2021. Health Protection will be located on the 2nd floor of the old Alvarado Building in front of the PNM building. Renovation are taking place and should be completed by March of 2021.

Two long time Health Protection staff have retired within the past year. Pamela Ramos and Belinda Lucero have retired and are enjoying the merits of retirement. Consequently, we have hired two new members for our Health Protection Team. Please welcome Kerianne Gardner and Zahra Kanji to Bernco Health Protection.

Become a NMEHA member

Not a member but would like to become one or know someone who would benefit? Join NMEHA! Becoming a NMEHA member is easy as 123. Visit nmeha.org and click on the "become a member" tab then enter information and pay membership fee. Membership fees are as follow:

1. Student: \$25.00
2. Professional: \$50.00
3. Corporate: \$100.00
4. Retired: Free

Officers and Executive Board

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