

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

Environment Department, O'Reilly Auto Parts reach settlement over alleged workplace safety violations related to COVID-19

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) reached a settlement with O'Reilly Auto Parts over alleged violations of workplace safety laws at a Lovington store related to COVID-19.

NMED issued two citations to O'Reilly in January 2021 for allegedly failing to protect employees from exposure to COVID-19 at its Lovington store. In July 2020, three employees at the location tested positive for the virus, one of whom died from the virus. Due to measures taken by O'Reilly at that location, no additional employees at the Lovington store have tested positive since July 22, 2020.

As part of the settlement, O'Reilly will host 11 vaccination events for both employees and the public throughout New Mexico in conjunction with NMED and the New Mexico Department of Health. O'Reilly is the first retailer of its kind in New Mexico to host a series of public vaccination events at their stores.

"There is nothing more important than getting New Mexicans vaccinated and our settlement with O'Reilly Auto Parts prioritizes that outcome," said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. "All employers must work with their employees to help them get vaccinated. Our employees are our friends and families – now is the time to protect them from illness or death by encouraging vaccination."

You can request a vaccination event at your place of business [here](#).

As a term of settlement, O'Reilly also must pay \$34,750 to the state, which goes to the state's general fund. This is the second settlement the state has reached with O'Reilly over alleged COVID-19 workplace safety violations during the pandemic.

NMED's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau continues to work to ensure New Mexico workplaces are safe from hazards and has conducted more than 24,000 of the 39,000 rapid responses to help businesses stay open when employees test positive. To date, NMED has investigated over 1,300 workplace safety complaints related to COVID-19 and 17 workplace-related COVID-19 deaths. If you believe you are working in unsafe conditions, contact 505-476-8700 or email Complaints.OSHA@state.nm.us. You may remain anonymous when providing a tip or complaint.

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Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2855 or nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

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