



CHEFORNAK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 110 • Chefornak, Alaska 99561

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RESOLUTION 20-03-01

TRIBAL DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

COVID-19 is a foreign virus that can cause fatal and severe pneumonia and organ failure in elders and people with existing underlying medical conditions, including diabetes, asthma, heart disease and lung disease.

COVID-19 is spread through the air and can be breathed in or picked up from surfaces where the germs have landed.

The only method known to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to not have any contact with an infected person. There is no cure.

People infected with COVID-19 may not become sick for up to 14 days. But can still pass the dangerous virus silently to others.

WHEREAS: The Chefornak Traditional Council is the Tribal Governing Body for the Native Village of Chefornak, and

WHEREAS: The foreign disease novel coronavirus COVID-19 has spread throughout the world and has now been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 can be deadly for elders and people with existing underlying medical conditions; and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 is spread through the air from person to person through breathing, coughing or sneezing and from contact by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it; and

WHEREAS: The President of the United States has issued guidance intended to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Native Village of Chefornak declares a Public Emergency to protect our community from the new threat COVID-19. We will follow the guidance of the Center for Disease Control and health professionals in implementing urgent health strategies. To protect our people, our community and our traditional way of life from this sickness, the following policies and strategies will be formally adopted, effective immediately:

1. All business and non-essential travel for non-community members coming into Chefornak is suspended until further notice. This includes inter-village travel but will permit pass-through travel.
 - a. Medical and other essential travel into Chefornak will be permitted as the need for medical or other outside assistance arises. Those permitted into the community, for the fore-mentioned purposes, will follow strict precautionary procedures.
 - i. Practice social distancing
 - ii. Wash hands often
 - iii. 14-day isolation, as needed
 - b. Mail, goods and supplies will be not be interrupted unless, or until, there is a threat to the well-being and health and safety of the community
2. All returning Chefornak community members, other than subsistence hunting and gathering and pass-through travelers, will require a mandatory 14- day isolation period in their homes. Stay home and away from other community members and public places for up to 14 days per Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>
 - a. Don't allow visitors into your home
 - b. Wash hands often, and disinfect commonly touched surfaces regularly
 - c. Call the clinic if symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, or chest pain arise at 867-8919 and follow their guidance
3. Travel is permitted for medical reasons for community members but are urged to take precautionary measures during travel and follow the 14-day isolation and other precautionary recommendations upon returning to the community. More information can be found on the YKHC website: <https://www.ykhc.org/covid-19/>
4. The Chefornak Traditional Council will be closed to the public starting March 23, 2020 for two weeks. After which time, the Traditional Council will evaluate and asses the need for an extension of the closure based on information and guidance from the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control.
 - a. Only essential staff will be allowed in the office for Tribal Operations. Please call for assistance before visiting the TC office
 - b. Tribal Police will be available on an on-call basis, 867-2033
 - c. Donations will be suspended, ONLY allowing donations for emergency medical travel
5. There will be no social gatherings anywhere in Chefornak of more than 10 people.
 - a. Social distancing in public of at least 6 feet is highly encouraged to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - b. Everyone is urged to stay home and not visit other households even if you are not sick, or the other household members are not sick. This includes children
 - c. Everyone is also urged not to visit any businesses in the community unless it is essential for daily living, medical or other essential needs. Call ahead
6. Anyone that feels sick (fever, cough, or sore throat) should stay home and self-isolate as mentioned above to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - a. Call the clinic for an appointment if you or a family member is sick
 - b. For questions about COVID-19 testing, please call 543-6949

CERTIFICATION

This Emergency Declaration was passed by the Cheforak Traditional Council, of which a quorum was present, with a vote of 3 yes; and 0 no; and 0 abstaining; 1 absent, on this 21 day of March 2020.

President: Janet Erik
Janet Erik

Secretary: Jimmie Larsen Jr
Jimmie Larsen Jr.