



# **TULE RIVER TRIBE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY**

## **Order of the Public Health Authority**

### **No. C19-10**

Amendment 4 (February 10, 2022)

## **SUBJECT: Large Gathering and Events Protocol**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Covid-19 is a highly contagious novel coronavirus spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. As of February 10, 2022, there have been approximately 850 cases of Covid-19 identified through the Tule River Indian Health Center, Inc. including 10 deaths, 97,286 cases and 1,268 deaths in Tulare County, and 8,181,224 cases and 81,074 deaths in the State of California. Recovered patients sometimes suffer permanent heart, lung, or neurological damage from Covid-19. The Tule River Indian Reservation must take precautionary steps to protect its people, community, and elders from Covid-19.

### **SUMMARY GUIDANCE**

The following order is designed to protect the Tule River Indian Reservation, its residents, and its way of life. It begins at 12:00AM on February 11, 2022 and continues until otherwise noted.

All events or gatherings with more than 25 people are canceled unless otherwise approved by the Tule River Tribal Council.

To get approval from the Tule River Tribal Council, the Public Health Authority (PHA) Event Assessment Form must be completed before the event and submitted to the Public Health Authority. Hard copies are accepted at the Tule River Indian Health Clinic, Inc, or the form can be emailed to the PHA at [pha@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov](mailto:pha@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov). The form can be found on this website: <https://www.trihci.org/event-assessment-form/>.

### **Exemptions:**

Any activity or event that occurs specifically within the reopening plan of an entity deemed essential by the Tule River Tribal Council is exempted from this order. However, if the event is not covered in the reopening plan, then an essential entity must have approval from the Tule River Tribal Council.

### **Rationale**

Large gatherings of multiple households are a huge risk for the spread of Covid-19. Each additional attendee dramatically adds risk to others and to themselves by being at the event. The PHA staff have seen events on the reservation that have exposed dozens of people to Covid-19.

Due to the recent surge in cases, many nearby jurisdictions are banning events to limit the spread of Covid-19. On November 13, the state of California released tight restrictions<sup>1</sup> on private gatherings,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-for-the-Prevention-of-COVID-19-Transmission-for-Gatherings-November-2020.aspx>

including restricting any event to less than 3 different households and banning any indoor event in certain counties with high case rates, such as Tulare County. On November 27, Los Angeles County banned nearly all private events and issued a stay-at-home order.<sup>2</sup> The case rate on the Tule River Reservation is now higher than both the state of California's and the rate in Los Angeles County. To keep the community, our elders and families safe, the PHA believes large events are too dangerous. We order no events until further notice.

### Definitions

- a) "Event" or "Gathering" is defined as any activity in the same physical space, whether indoors or outdoors, that congregates a group of the same people for more than 15 minutes.
- b) "Household" is defined as the main location of residence, or if multiple locations, then the residence that the individual stayed at the most in the previous 2 weeks.

### ENFORCEMENT

- 1) Violation of this order may result in civil fines set out in the Tribe's Communicable Disease Ordinance, or any other applicable tribal, state, or federal penalties. The civil fines will be assessed to the event organizer (i.e. Department Head) if an event or gathering is found to not be compliance with this order.
- 1) Pursuant to Tribal Resolution No. FY2020-110, the Public Health Authority requests that Chief of Police of the Tule River Tribal Police enforce this Order to ensure compliance with its provisions. The violation of any provision of this Order may constitute an imminent threat and an immediate menace to public health.
- 2) This Order shall become effective on February 11, 2022, and will continue to be in effect unless extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Public Health Authority.
- 3) The Public Health Authority must promptly provide copies of this Order as follows: (1) by posting on the Tule River Indian Health Center Inc., website ([www.trihci.org/covid-19](http://www.trihci.org/covid-19)) and all of the clinic's social media sites (2) by posting at the Tule River Tribal Council Administration Building and requesting that the Tribe distribute to all other tribal entities, departments, and organizations for immediate posting, and (3) by providing a copy to any member of the public requesting a copy. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public requesting a copy.
- 4) If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

Signature: Eric Coles  
Tribal Public Health Officer

Date: February 10, 2022

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-california/los-angeles-county-to-impose-new-covid-19-restrictions-on-social-gatherings-idUSKBN28800F>