



TULE RIVER TRIBE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY No. C19-07

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Response General Orders

I 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.¹ As of September 23, 2020, there have been 51 cases of COVID-19 identified through the Tule River Indian Health Clinic, Inc. but no deaths, 15,829 cases and 259 deaths in Tulare County, and 787,470 cases and 15,204 deaths in the State of California.² While there have been no deaths in cases identified by the clinic so far, 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.

II SUMMARY GUIDANCE

The following orders constitute are designed to protect the Tule River Indian Reservation, its residents and its way of life. The orders replace and supersede all previous public health orders. They begin at 12:00AM on September 26, 2020 and continue unless otherwise noted.

1. Mask Wearing Requirements

1.1. All persons on any tribal property must wear face coverings when outside their household property. Face coverings must cover both the mouth and nose unless the individual is exempt under paragraph six below.

2. Social Distancing Reasonable Precautions

2.1. Practice social distancing, which is 6 ft of distance between members of different households, at all times.

3. Isolation and Quarantine Order Compliance

3.1. All isolation and quarantine orders issued by the Public Health Authority must be followed until the order is lifted by the Public Health Authority.

3.2. Unless otherwise stated, an isolation/quarantine order require an individual to stay within their household and/or property until cleared by the Public Health Authority.

4. Smoking and Vaping Prohibitions

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Basics>

² <https://tchhsa.org/eng/index.cfm/public-health/covid-19-in-tulare-county/>

4.1. Smoking and Vaping are prohibited within any tribal structure open to the public and any public transit vehicle used to transport members of the public, including, but not limited to, buses, paratransit vehicles, and taxis. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, tribal structures in which business, government, healthcare, and/or gaming offices or facilities are located.

5. Notification of Return

5.1. Residents of the Tule River Indian Reservation or their households who return to the Reservation from a high-risk areas must inform the Public Health Authority of their return at least 24 hours beforehand by calling the Public Health Authority at 559-784-2316 or emailing the PHA@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov. High-risk areas are defined in paragraph six below.

6. Definitions

6.1. Isolation means the separation, for the period of communicability or contamination, of infected or contaminated persons or animals from others in such places and under such conditions as to prevent or limit the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent or contaminant from those infected or contaminated to those who are susceptible or who may spread the agent or contaminant to others.

6.2. Quarantine means the limitation of freedom of movement of such well persons or domestic animals as have been exposed to, or are suspected to have been exposed to, an infectious agent, for a period of time not longer than the longest usual incubation period of the infectious agent, in such manner as to prevent effective contact with those not so exposed.

6.3. Vaping “Vaping” means the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette or similar device.

6.4. High Risk Areas “High-risk areas” include, but are not limited to, prisons, jails, rehabilitation centers, and hospitals, as well as local cities or counties experiences as indicated on the <https://www.trihci.org/covid-19/> website.

7. Application to Tribal Entities

7.1. All Tribal Entities, wherever located, must comply with the specific requirements of this order.

III ENFORCEMENT:

Violations of this Order by any person within the Tule River Indian Reservation shall constitute a civil infraction subject to

- 1st offense: Warning and/or fine of \$20.00
- 2nd offense: Fine of minimum \$20.00 and maximum \$250.00,
- 3rd offense or more: fine of \$250 and/or exclusion or banishment from the Tule River Indian Reservation for the third or more offense, in addition to any other penalties provided by applicable tribal or federal law.

The following provides information about exemptions to the summary guidelines above.

1) Exemptions

- a) Mask Wearing. The following individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering:
- i) Persons age 2 years and under.
 - ii) Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
 - iii) Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication while maintaining a distance of six (6) feet or more.
 - iv) Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
 - v) Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
 - vi) Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
 - vii) Persons who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, when alone or with household members, and when they can maintain a distance of at least six feet from others who are not part of the same household or residence.
- b) Vaping and Smoking. Persons may smoke or vape in the following places:
- i) Private residence structures and other private property not open to the public.
 - ii) Public areas, other than tribal structures open to the public, such as a public road, sporting field, or park, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
 - iii) Private vehicles which are not used for public transportation.

- 2) Pursuant to Tribal Resolution No. FY2020-110, related resolutions and ordinances, and the Tule River Indian Tribe of California's Communicable Disease Ordinance, 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 constitutes an imminent threat and an immediate menace to public health.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE, DISTRIBUTION, AND SEVERABILITY

- 1) This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on September 26, 2020 unless extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Public Health Authority
- 2) 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) by posting at the Tule River Tribal Council Administration Building; 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.

- 3) 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: September 25, 2020

FAQS

1. How do I wear my mask properly?

A face covering of most material, including fabrics are fine to wear. They must cover the nose and mouth, unless you are exempted for other reasons, such as a medical condition. The mask should fit snugly against the sides of your face and not hang loose. More information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html#:~:text=%E2%80%A2%20Wash%20your%20hands%20before,an%20exhalation%20valve%20or%20vent>

2. When should I socially distant?

You should socially distant when you are near individuals who you live outside your household. Keep 6ft away, approximately two arm lengths. It is especially important to socially distant when you are inside as the risk of transmission increases indoors.

3. How do I notify the PHA of a household member returning from a high-risk area?

You can email PHA@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov or call the clinic at 559-784-2316 to give notification.