



TULE RIVER TRIBE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

No. C19-11

Amendment 2 (March 4, 2021)

SUBJECT: Lifting Stay-at-Home Order

I CURRENT SITUATION

Covid-19 is a highly contagious novel coronavirus that is spread mainly from person to person contact through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.¹ As of March 3, 2021, there have been 380 cases of Covid-19 identified through the Tule River Indian Health Center, Inc. and one death, 48,114 cases and 768 deaths in Tulare County, and 3,481,611 cases and 52,497 deaths in the State of California.² Active cases peaked on the Reservation in January at 52 and the latest report showed active cases has decreased to 19. There have been around 19 cases on the reservation since February 24.

II SUMMARY GUIDANCE

The following order is designed to protect the Tule River Indian Reservation, its residents, and its way of life. It began at 12:00AM on January 30, 2021 and continued until March 4, 2021 at 12:00AM. **This order is no longer in effect as of March 5, 2021.**

All persons on the Tule River Indian Reservation are required to stay at home and leave their households only when necessary for their health, safety, or welfare or as described below as 'essential activities.'

Individuals may leave their place of residence only for emergencies or to perform "Essential Activities," defined herein, which primarily include activities and tasks essential to health, safety, and welfare or in the event of an emergency, as described below:

1. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their immediate family or household members (including, but not limited to, livestock and pets), such as, obtaining critical medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional for an imminent health need.
2. To obtain necessary services or supplies such as canned food, dry goods, produce, pet supplies, meat, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residential living. When people need to leave home to obtain such necessities, they should do so in limited numbers and should at all times adhere to all other PHA orders including mask wearing and social distancing.

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/>

3. Individuals are still permitted to cultivate food (i.e. farming) and tend to livestock. However, plan ahead to purchase hay and feed, if needed.
4. Individuals are not required to remain indoors. Outdoor activity is encouraged and individuals may leave their immediate residence or home site area for exercise such as running or hiking as long as they follow other PHA orders, especially mask wearing and social distancing.
5. Wood collection and hauling, with an appropriate permit issued; however, groups are limited to no more than 5 people, masks are required, maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible, and use hand sanitizer. Coal collection and hauling is also permissible with the same preventive measures.
6. Refrain from gathering with individuals from outside your immediate household.
7. Practice all individual preventative measures including wearing a mask in public, avoid public gatherings, maintain social (physical) distancing, remain in your vehicle for curb-side and drive-through services.
8. These restrictions do not apply to Essential Employees reporting to or from duty at an Essential Business that is exempted from closure.

All Businesses not otherwise exempted herein shall be closed. The closure and cease operation requirement do not apply to Healthcare Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, or Essential Infrastructure Activities (as those terms are defined below). The closure requirement also does not apply to gas stations, grocery stores, laundromats, restaurants, food establishments, and hay vendors, provided they comply with the following requirements.

Rationale

There are several pieces of evidence that suggest the risk posed by Covid-19 has decreased since the last amendment. First, active cases of Covid-19 have decreased on the Reservation from an all-time high of 52 in January to 19 currently. Second, the rate of new cases of Covid-19 have fallen in Tulare County and throughout the rest of California. Third, hospital capacity, which is what the state of California used to determine its stay-at-home regional orders, has increased from 0% to 15% in Tulare County. Finally, at least 150 members of the community have been vaccinated, which limits the potential spread of the virus. With this evidence, the PHA determined that the stay-at-home order was no longer the best approach to protect the community.

The order is lifted effectively immediately because the data suggests the risk has already been lowered. Cases have decreased on the reservation for the last two weeks and the county improvements have also occurred for several weeks straight.

Definitions

- a) "Essential Activities" are defined as (1) activities or tasks essential to the health and safety of one's household (including livestock and pets), such as obtaining critical medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional for an imminent health need; (2) obtaining necessary services or supplies (such as canned food, dry goods, produce, pet supplies, meat, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation,

and essential operation of a residence); (3) engaging in daytime outdoor activity such as walking, hiking, or running; (5) Cultivate food (i.e. farming) and tend to livestock; (6) Working for an essential business or in an essential government function, or providing essential infrastructure services; (7) Wood collection and hauling

- b) “Essential businesses” are any entity or organization defined, or deemed, by the Tule River Tribal Council as essential to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the community.

III 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.
- 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 December 17, 2020 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) and all of the Center’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: 
Tribal Public Health Officer

Date: March 4, 2021