



# TULE RIVER TRIBE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

## ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

No. C19-07

Amendment 3 (May 12, 2021)

### 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 order is designed to protect the Tule River Indian Tribe of California (“Tribe”), its residents and visitors, and its way of life. This order replaces and supersedes any previous versions of this order. This order begins at 12:01AM on May 12, 2020 and continues unless otherwise rescinded or superseded.

##### 1. Mask Wearing Requirements

1.1. All persons on any tribal property must wear face masks when outside their household property. Face masks must cover both the mouth and nose unless the individual is exempt under part III paragraph 2 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.

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

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

#### 4. **Smoking and Vaping Prohibitions**

**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](mailto: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:**

- 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.
- 2) The following provides information about exemptions to the summary guidelines above.
  - a) Mask Wearing. The following individuals are exempt from wearing a face mask:
    - 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 mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise

- unable to remove a face mask without assistance. If any person with a medical condition that prohibits them from safely wearing a face mask, but can safely wear a face shield, they must wear the face shield as a replacement.
- 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 mask 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 mask 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.
- 3) 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 May 12, 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](http://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: May 11, 2021

## FAQS

### 1. How do I wear my mask properly?

A face mask 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](mailto:PHA@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov) or call the clinic at 559-784-2316 to give notification.