



# TULE RIVER TRIBE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY

## Advisory: Recent Surge in COVID-19 Cases

Dear Tule River Tribal Community,

COVID-19 cases are rising across California faster than at any other time in the pandemic in every region of the state. In our area, the counties of Tulare, Kern, Kings, Fresno, and San Bernardino are experiencing WIDESPREAD transmission and most essential businesses must be closed.

*What does this mean for you?* Until the cases in our area decrease, please consider taking extra precautions, such as:

1. **ALWAYS WEAR A FACE MASK** – Wearing a mask while around people outside your household is the best way to keep you and your family safe.
2. **Avoid any large gatherings**, especially inside homes. [Evidence<sup>1</sup>](#) suggests private, social gatherings – like dinner parties, birthday parties, and family events - as a major cause of the recent spread of COVID-19.
3. **Skip indoor dining** – COVID-19 transmission is more likely indoors and while eating, you must take your mask off which also increases your risk.
4. **If you have symptoms (cough, fatigue, loss of taste/smell), STAY HOME and call TRIHCI (784-2316) to seek medical advice.** You can be tested freely for COVID-19 at the clinic or be directed for free testing at several AB Med locations.

Finally, be aware that the PHA will advise further restrictions on the reservation to keep the community safe. The current PHA orders can be found [online<sup>2</sup>](#) and include: mandatory mask wearing on the reservation, social distancing when possible, smoking and vaping prohibitions, isolation and quarantine orders, and mandatory COVID-19 safety plans for organizations re-opening.

Yesterday, Monday November 16, Governor Newsom said that he is “[pulling the emergency brake](#),”<sup>3</sup> and stopping the reopening of the state in response to the rapid rise in COVID-19 cases. The state is using a framework with 4 risk tiers to categorize every county. Currently, 41 counties that include 94% of the state’s population are in the most restrictive category (purple). More counties may be moving into the category if numbers increase. More information about the number of COVID-19 cases in each county can be found [online](#).<sup>4</sup> There should not be many changes in our local communities since Tulare County has been in its most restrictive category since the framework was created in September 2020.

Please call TRICHI (784-2316) or email [pha@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov](mailto:pha@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Coles".

Eric Coles  
Tribal Public Health Officer

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/11/12/covid-social-gatherings/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.trihci.org/covid-19/public-health-authority-orders/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.kcra.com/article/coronavirus-tier-assignments-changes/34691682>

<sup>4</sup> <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/#county-status>