



# THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH

440 North Paiute Drive • Cedar City, Utah 84721 • (435) 586-1112 • Fax (435) 867-2659

## TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

**TO:** *The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Membership and General Public*

**FROM:** *The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Tribal Council* JBA

**Date:** *May 14, 2020*

**RE:** *Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Tribal Council Update on COVID-19*

---

As the State of Utah has moved to open the State from High Risk to Moderate Risk, The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah as a sovereign nation that has chosen to still operate under the measures of High Risk. The way the guidelines and parameters have been setup nationally and within our own State are based on four phases, High (red), Moderate (orange), Low (yellow), and New Normal (green). The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Tribal Council is actively practicing in social distancing by keeping our facilities closed to any groups and holding meetings via teleconference and restricting travel for all employees. We strongly encourage our members to call ahead and schedule appointments prior to walking into our facilities. We are offering telehealth to access appointments in our FourPoint Health Center Facilities and offering prescription drop-off in each area to tribal members. We have cancelled all activities for the month of May and June.

We are thankful for our community partnerships because without them we would not have been able to provide care packages for our elders and disabled tribal members for the past two months. We have increased our pantry with the assistance of the Utah Food Bank and are still able to offer this service to any family that needs supplemental food assistance.

COVID-19, also known as Corona Virus is an invisible enemy that we are vehemently fighting against. We know it has unhinged our normal lives and derailed many of our plans. No one was prepared for a virus like this. I know many people are stating that this is a hoax and is made up, but what we do know is numbers and science do not lie and that the tribe is continually basing our protocols and procedures off of the recommendations of healthcare specialists. This virus doesn't care about age, race, sex, or economic standing, everyone is at risk.

In the State of Utah, Native Americans that self-identify are being hospitalized at an alarming rate. Native Americans and Alaskan Natives make up 2.3% of the population in Utah and are currently 2.8% of the positive reported cases, with hospitalization rate of 151.4 per every 1,000 cases. We are the highest hospitalized race in the entire State. The welfare and over all wellbeing of our tribal members is our top priority. The numbers are continually changing and we encourage our members to look at the Utah Corona Virus website to see up-to-date information at [https://coronavirus.utah.gov/case-counts/..](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/case-counts/)

Nationally, there has been a disconnect with reporting Corona Virus based off race and to date we cannot find any statistical information that we can share with our members at this time. It has been reported nationally that Native Americans are marked as "other" in national databases and has created a large debate in Indian Country.

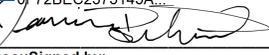
The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah will continue to strive to provide the best services that we can provide during a pandemic. If our elders and disabled members are not receiving phone calls on a weekly basis to check in with them by their assigned staff member, we need to know. The only exception is if the elder and disabled tribal member has asked to be contacted less frequently and it has been noted. If our children are having difficulty being able to report via distance learning to school, we need to know. We need to know the barriers that are in place and how we can assist with removing them. Community and togetherness are the reason that we have been able to survive and are still here today. We are resilient and have weathered many difficulties that have been thrown at us throughout our history.

We know that we cannot dictate your lives and how you choose to proceed living. We can caution and provide our membership with the information and tools that are provided to us. If you choose to leave your house please wear a mask, it isn't necessarily to protect you, but to protect others that you might infect if you are asymptomatic. Please continue to social distance and please protect our most vulnerable population by not visiting them, our elders and disabled individuals. We are very social, but at this point phone calls and facetime are the best tools that we can use. To-date, we are lucky to not have a single case of Corona Virus to report in the tribe, but that can change in the blink of an eye.

If our tribal members need any assistance during this turbulent time, please reach out to us and we can see if we can provide any assistance.

Tamra Borchardt-Slayton, Tribal Chairperson:   
DocuSigned by: \_\_\_\_\_ 5/18/2020

LaTosha Mayo, Tribal Vice-Chairperson:   
DocuSigned by: LaTosha Mayo - Council Member 5/18/2020  
OF72BEC2375145A...

Jeanine Borchardt, Council Member:   
DocuSigned by: \_\_\_\_\_ 5/18/2020  
E7C862E0364644F...

Delice Tome, Council Member:   
DocuSigned by: Delice Tome - Council Member 5/15/2020  
91EE81B1090F4B6...