

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Division of Community Development Newsletter

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Did You Know..

Shiprock is a monadnock rising nearly 1,583 feet above the high-desert plain of the Navajo Nation in San Juan County, New Mexico. The Navajo name for the peak, Tsé Bit'a'í, "rock with wings" or "winged rock", refers to the legend of the great bird that brought the Navajo from the north to their present lands.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2TpKzTt>

Events

March: Wóózhch'ííjd-First Cry of Eaglets

March 16-April 3: Limited Navajo Nation Services

April: T'aachil-Growth of Early Plant Life

April 1: US Census Day

Nez-Lizer announce temporary reduction in non-essential government services, closure of schools, and public parks to prevent spread of COVID-19



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Friday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer announced more proactive measures to prevent the potential spread of the COVID19 coronavirus on the Navajo Nation by temporarily reducing the number of on-duty Executive Branch employees for the next three weeks, which does not include public safety personnel, firefighters, EMS personnel, Department of Emergency

Management, Division of Finance, Division of Social Services, and others that provide essential direct services.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer issued an executive order on Friday, to notify Executive Branch employees. On Wednesday, a declaration of a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation was issued in response to the growing spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, also known as “Diko[s] Ntsaaígíí-Náhást’éíts’áadah” in the Navajo language. On Friday, the White House also declared a National Emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease outbreak.

“The health and well-being of our Navajo people is the top priority. ... The Navajo Nation COVID19 Preparedness Team continues to move forward with preventive measures to ensure the safety and well-being of the Navajo people,” said President Nez.

Based on a resolution of the Navajo Nation Board of Education passed on Friday, grant schools, contract schools, and BIE schools will also close for three weeks. All FACE Programs, Early Childhood Programs, Child Care Development Fund Programs, and Navajo Head Start Programs are also included in the three-week closure.

“We are not intending to create panic, but we want everyone to be prepared. We’re staying on top of the situation and we are constantly monitoring the spread of the virus. To our Navajo people, we ask them to make good decisions and to take good care of themselves and their loved ones,” stated Vice President Lizer.

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President Nez and Vice President Lizer also met with Division Directors and directed each division to identify essential employees for direct services and also to finalize contingency plans. Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala also directed the Parks and Recreation Department to immediately close all Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Areas until further notice due to growing concerns for the health of the general public. President Nez and Vice President Lizer also issued a letter to the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, urging their board and management to close gaming facilities on the Navajo Nation to further prevent the potential spread of the virus. They also encourage all Navajo Nation enterprises to consider similar measures to prioritize the health and well-being of the public.

“We urge the Navajo public to stay home and refrain from large public events and use their best discretion to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Please continue to pray for the Nation and all people as we persevere through this. We are resilient and we will overcome this health emergency,” added President Nez.

The Navajo Nation Department of Health is offering to provide presentations to communities and other groups. Please send requests by email to coronavirus.info@nndoh.org or visit their website for additional information: <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team will continue to coordinate with the county, state, and federal officials to monitor the evolving impacts of the coronavirus and continue to encourage the public to take precautions

READ MORE AT: <https://bit.ly/2Wqclm1>



Please use the follow links for information:

Navajo Department of Health: <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Arizona Department of Health Services: <https://azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-home>

New Mexico Department of Health: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>

Utah Department of Health: <https://health.utah.gov/>

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Division of Community Development Will Offer Limited Services Pursuant to Executive Order 001-20

The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development is currently following the Executive Order Issued on Friday, March 13, 2020, to temporarily reduce the number of on-duty Executive Branch employees for three weeks. Dr. Pearl Yellowman met with the Department Managers on March 16, 2020, to identify key department staff that would be allowed into Division Offices during the reduction of on-duty employees.

DCD Executive Administration

DCD Executive Administration will observe the COVID-19 restrictions and will limit contact with visitors, but will continue to provide limited services and provide leadership for DCD operations. Some key staff will remain onsite at the Administration 2 building, but due to staff safety, other key staff will work remotely from home.

Administrative Service Center

The Administrative Service Center is working closely with the Navajo Nation Health Incident Command Center (HHC) located in Administration 2 Building-Navajo Department of Health to inform the Chapters on the State of Emergency. ASC will continue to take directions from the HCC and will assist Chapter Officials and Council Delegates with coordinating community needs so please contact the assigned ASC Offices for updates. The ASC field Offices will be open for Emergency Operations but closed to the general public.

Non-Certified Chapters

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 001-20, all non-certified Chapter employees are on paid Administrative Leave effective March 19, 2020 until further notice. All supervisors were directed to close public access to Chapter buildings and to initiate remote contact with Community Services Coordinators (CSC), Accounts Maintenance Specialists (AMS), and Temporary Employees including PEP workers. Chapter Offices are closed and signs were posted on all doors displaying that buildings are closed until further notice. Contact information should be posted at the entrances and voice messages on the chapter phones.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, all non-certified Chapter employees have been directed to remain at home and to reduce personal travel.

Certified Chapters

The Certified LGA Chapters employees will get direction from supervisors and Chapter leaders on remaining open or closed due to COVID-19 Emergency. The status of Certified LGA Chapters may be different for each chapter. Please call the Certified Chapters for information.

Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD)

Capital Projects Management Department is taking COVID-19 preventive measures by limiting person-to-person exposure both for stakeholders and CPMD staff. CPMD has temporarily suspended in-person contact with the vendors, contractors and other stakeholders as the staff will be working remotely from home. All currently calendared project meetings, on-site project visits and related activities have been canceled. These events will be rescheduled at a later date. The in-person NM IAD Reconciliation meeting that was scheduled March 27, 2020 at Fire Rock Casino is postponed until further notice.

CPMD will continue to provide limited services behind closed doors. If you need to contact CPMD, please call (928) 871-6211.

Community Housing and Infrastructure Department (CHID)

Community Housing and Infrastructure Department (CHID) has limited person-to-person exposure by temporarily suspending in-person contact with the vendors, contractors and other stakeholders as the staff will be working remotely from home.

All currently calendared project meetings, on-site project visits and related activities have been canceled. These events will be rescheduled at a later date. CHID will continue to provide limited services behind closed doors. If you need to contact CHID, please call (928) 871-7240.

Thanks to all the DCD and chapter staff who have been working at Admin 2, the ASC field offices, chapters, home offices and on the weekends during these uncertain times. Your work is recognized & appreciated!

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NAPI Provides \$1 Million Payment to Navajo Nation



Left to right: Hon. Herman Daniels, Council Delegate; Lawrence Platero, NAPI Board of Director; Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez; Navajo Nation Vice-President Myron Lizer; Danny Simpson, NAPI Board of Director; Hon. Mark Freeland, Council Delegate

FARMINGTON, NM – On March 17, the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (“NAPI”) presented a \$1-million-dollar dividend payment to the Navajo Nation as a partial repayment toward a Capital Contribution received in the year of 2000. The Capital Contribution was approved by the 19th Navajo Nation Council for NAPI to use said funds to pay on short term debts and other related actions.

NAPI intended to present the payment to the Navajo Nation during a 50th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for April 16. Due to the ongoing concern of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and the President’s Executive Order declaring a state of emergency for the Navajo Nation, the decision was made by the NAPI Board of Directors to postpone the event. Instead, the payment was expedited and provided to the Office of the Navajo Nation President and Vice-President in Window Rock, AZ.

The NAPI Board of Directors determined that it is in the best interest to issue the payment to the Navajo Nation during the current state of emergency. The funds can be utilized to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or other Navajo Nation priorities.

At the end of the fiscal year on May 31, 2019, NAPI reported a net profit that provided the opportunity to issue the dividend payment to the Navajo Nation.

NAPI is a wholly owned enterprise of the Navajo Nation, charged with operating and managing a commercial farm on land held in trust by the United States for the Navajo Nation under legislation authorizing the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project.

Read at: <http://bit.ly/3d1efPM>

Member of the Navajo Nation tests positive for COVID-19 coronavirus

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer were informed by the Navajo Department of Health that a 46-year-old member of the Navajo Nation with recent travel history tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus, which is the first confirmed case involving a member of the Navajo Nation.

The Arizona Department of Health confirmed the positive test result from an individual from the community of Chilchinbeto, Ariz., who first reported their symptoms to the Kayenta Health Center in Kayenta, Ariz. The individual was taken to a hospital in Phoenix, Ariz. where the test was conducted. Health and emergency officials are taking the proper precautions to screen and isolate the person's family members.

“We have health and emergency experts who have been planning and preparing for this situation for several weeks. We call upon our Navajo people to do their best to remain calm and make good decisions by staying home to prevent the spread of the virus among our communities. We are in close contact with officials from the Kayenta Indian Health Service Unit, Arizona Department of Health, Navajo County, and Navajo Area Indian Health Service to take the proper measures to inform the public, take precautions, and remain proactive,” said President Nez.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also ask for the public to remain calm and to let the health and emergency experts do what they are trained to do in these situations.

“We need our people to remain vigilant and to isolate themselves as much as possible. The health command center has been in full activation in anticipation of this event. We are taking all proper actions at this time,” added Vice President Lizer.

In order to provide more resources, President Nez and Vice President Lizer are calling on the 24th Navajo Nation Council to convene once again and appropriate funds for health and emergency professionals to address the COVID-19 coronavirus.

On Tuesday, President Nez and Vice President Lizer were also informed that Navajo Agricultural Products Industry is contributing \$1 million to help the Navajo Nation address the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Questions from the public may be directed to the Navajo Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014. If a person has symptoms related to the COVID-19 virus, please contact your local health care center prior to your arrival:

Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility (928)
674-7001/7688

Crownpoint Health Care Facility (505) 786-5291/6381

Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, INC (928) 729-8000

Gallup Indian Medical Center (505) 722-1000

Sage Memorial (928) 755-4500

Kayenta Health Center (928) 697-4000

Northern Navajo Medical Center (505) 368-6001

Tuba City Regional Health Care (866) 976-5941

Utah Navajo Health System (866) 976-5941

Winslow Indian Health Care Center (928) 289-4646

Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center (844)
542-8201

New Mexico Coronavirus Hotline (855) 600-3453

Read at: <http://bit.ly/38YkKzB>



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

You can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with these actions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds.



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NAVAJO NATION HAS TWO COVID-19 CASES

Posted on March 17, 2020 by Marley Shebala

NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT PRESS RELEASE March 17, 2020

Second member of the Navajo Nation tests positive for COVID-19 coronavirus

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer were informed by the Navajo Department of Health on late Tuesday afternoon of a second member of the Navajo Nation who tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus. The second individual is a middle-age male from the same region as the first person who tested positive within the Kayenta IHS Service Area.

The second individual also had recent travel history and reported their symptoms to the Kayenta Health Center and was taken to a hospital off the Nation for testing. Health and emergency officials are taking the proper precautions to screen and isolate the person's family members. Officials are in the process of determining the extent of the relation of the two cases.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer made the initial announcement live on KTNN AM 660 and 101.5 FM on Tuesday afternoon. A press conference will also be live-streamed on Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. (DST) where health experts will provide more information.

The Navajo Nation is in the process of deploying a mobile Incident Command Post to the impacted region on Tuesday, and the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team continues to monitor and take proactive measures to prevent the continued spread of the virus.

"We call upon our Navajo people to stay home and remain calm to prevent the spread of the virus among our communities. We also ask the public to be vigilant and respectful of first responders, health care workers, and emergency management officials who are responding to these cases. Please continue to pray for these individuals, their families, and all of the people of our Nation as we get through this together," said President Nez.

In order to provide more resources, President Nez and Vice President Lizer continue to communicate with members of Congress to secure more federal funding and to gain support for efforts of our emergency operations and the health care professionals.

"We are taking all proper actions at this time. Through the power of prayer, we will overcome this pandemic as our ancestors did. While the situation may be alarming, we understand that there are many people who are recovering from the virus so we should remain positive in our thoughts and prayers," added Vice President Lizer.

On Tuesday, the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry contributed \$1 million to help the Navajo Nation address the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer extend their appreciation to all of the Health Command Operations Center officials, health care workers, emergency personnel, doctors, nurses, and all first responders for working hard to protect the Navajo people.

Questions from the public may be directed to the Navajo Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014. If a person has symptoms related to the COVID-19 virus, please contact your local health care center prior to your arrival to a hospital facility.

[Editor's note: At the time of publication, the Navajo Nation had fourteen confirmed cases.]

Read more at: <http://www.dineresourcesandinfocenter.org/navajo-nation-has-two-covid-19-cases/>

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS
Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

**Stay home when
you are sick,
except to get
medical care.**



cdc.gov/COVID19

© 2020 CDC March 17, 2020 2:08 PM

Navajo Nation closes to visitors in response to coronavirus

Shondiin Silversmith, Arizona Republic
March 18, 2020

With three Navajo people testing positive for the coronavirus, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez announced efforts, as of Wednesday, to limit the number of outside visitors on Navajo tribal land.

"Of course we can't just put roadblocks up," he said during a press conference.

The Navajo Nation spans across three states, Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Based on the boundaries of the Navajo Nation, Nez said that they're not going to be putting up roadblocks because the tribe does not have the resources to do so.

"We ask for our visitors to respect the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation," he said.

All tourism locations, tribal parks and casinos are closed on the Navajo Nation. A state of emergency was announced by the Navajo Nation on March 11 to deal with the coronavirus.

"What are our visitors going to come and see if our tourist attractions are closed and our points of interest are closed?" Nez asked in reply to a question on why it's a necessity to limit visitors.

The Navajo Health Command Operations Center is considering issuing a shelter-in-place order for citizens in Chilchinbeto, where all three cases are from.

Nez said doesn't want to contradict his advice to the Navajo people to stay home while visitors wander around tribal land.

"We're trying to lessen that curve and get ourselves through this pandemic," he said.

Nez also signed an emergency order that included the following:

- Urges citizens to stay at home for 15 days.
- Requires restaurants to operate at no greater than 50% capacity and seating; tables may also not seat more than six people.
- Limits fast food restaurants to drive-thru only.
- Prohibits gatherings of 10 or more people.

Nez said travel agencies that organize visits to the Navajo Nation have been notified and he hopes they will abide by the request.

The Navajo people who have tested positive for the new coronavirus are from Chilchinbeto, Arizona. Two of the cases reported symptoms to the Kayenta Health Center in Kayenta, Arizona. All were then taken to a hospital in Phoenix for testing.

The first two patients are in stable condition, said Del Yazzie, an epidemiologist with the Navajo Epidemiology Department.

Nez said there are ongoing investigations into the relationship and history of the cases. Two individuals have recently traveled outside of tribal land.

The Navajo Nation is one of 22 tribes in the state of Arizona. Ten of those tribes have declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19.

"This is a rapidly evolving situation," said Dr. Loretta Christensen, who is the chief medical officer for the Navajo Area Indian Health Service.

She said that the IHS health facilities on the Navajo Nation have 170 beds, 13 ICU beds, 52 isolation rooms that are available and 28 ventilators.

[Editor's note: At the time of publication, the Navajo Nation had fourteen confirmed cases.]

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2020/03/18/navajo-nation-closes-visitors-response-coronavirus/2865324001/>



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Nez-Lizer and Health Care Experts Urge Public to Stay Home as Total Number of Positive COVID-19 Test Results Reaches 14

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday evening, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer were informed by the Navajo Department of Health and Navajo Area IHS that the total number of positive cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus for members of the Navajo Nation has reached 14.

The majority of the 14 cases involve individuals who initially reported their symptoms to the Kayenta IHS Service Unit, and others who either reported to or were transported to or were treated at Chinle Health Care Facility, and Northern Navajo Medical Center. Health and emergency officials are taking every precaution to screen and isolate their family members and others. The Navajo Health Command Operations Center and Navajo Area IHS are in the process of determining if and how the cases relate.

“We are awaiting more details on the cases. We understand that the public has many questions and we ask that the public be patient until the facts are gathered – we do not want to report any misinformation. I assure everyone that the Navajo Health Command Operations Center, Navajo Area IHS, and 638 Tribal Health Organizations are working proactively to investigate each case to prevent the spread of the virus. Everyone must remain home at this point and let the health care and emergency experts do their jobs. Please be respectful and adhere to their directions as they are doing their best to protect our communities,” said President Nez.

“This is not a time for panic. Although there is an increase in positive tests for COVID-19, there are also a large number of people who have tested negative and some who are recovering. Please remain watchful over family members and follow official instructions so as not to create panic and please respect our first responders, health care workers, Health Command Operations Center and many other experts as they handle the situation,” added Vice President Lizer.

On Thursday, the Navajo Health Command Operations Center issued a Public Health Emergency Order requiring closure of the Chilchinbeto community for quarantine and isolation, also known as “shelter-in-place,” to limit the spread of COVID-19. The order requires residents to remain in their homes to slow the spread of the virus. President Nez stated that the order may also be applied to the entire Navajo Nation if reports become widespread.

The Navajo Health Command Operations Center officials are also in the process of securing care packages that will be available in the community of Chilchinbeto for those in need – elderly and high-risk residents will be the first priority.

Enhanced travel restrictions are also in place, urging all citizens not to travel unless travel is necessary to obtain essential items such as groceries, medication, emergencies, medical appointments, and livestock care. The notice also urges all citizens to stay home for a period of at least 15-days.

A Public Health Emergency Order was also issued on Wednesday, requiring restaurants to operate at no greater than 50 percent of maximum occupancy and no greater than 50 percent of seating capacity. In addition, tables and booths may not seat more than six people, and all occupied tables and booths must be separated by at least six-feet, limiting employees to “essential staff,” and displaying prevention and awareness signage for patrons.

The notice also limits fast-food businesses to drive-thru services, suspends all flea markets and indoor/outdoor markets, and prohibits social gatherings of 10 or more persons with exemptions for retail or grocery stores, and hospitals, among others.

“We are facing some serious challenges just as our ancestors did, but we will persevere and overcome this through the power of prayer and by working together cooperatively. We are resilient just like our ancestors. Make smart decisions and pray for our communities,” President Nez said.

Questions from the public may be directed to the Navajo Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014. For questions from members of the Chilchinbeto community, please call (928) 871-6271. If a person has symptoms related to the COVID-19 coronavirus, please contact your local health care center prior to your arrival to a hospital facility.

READ MORE at: <https://twitter.com/nnpresnez/status/1240862633328168962?s=12>

SOCIAL DISTANCING



THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

AVOID

- Restaurants
- Concerts/Dances
- Public Gatherings
- Crowded Stores
- Traveling
- People who are sick
- Church Services
- Going to the Gym

STAY 6 to 8 ft APART

- Going to the Grocery Store
- Getting takeout/food delivery
- Picking up Medication
- Going to the Post Office
- Other Public Places

STAY HOME

- Gardening
- Chopping Wood
- Weaving
- Arts & Craft
- Learn the Navajo Language
- Read a Book
- Fix Fencing
- Learn a new Recipe
- Household Chores
- Yard Work

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms* can include

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms AND
- Have been in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19, or recently traveled to an area with widespread or ongoing community transmission.



cdc.gov/COVID19

114705-8 March 16, 2020 12:16 PM

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



cdc.gov/COVID19

114705-8 March 17, 2020 10:16 PM

Bulletin Board

Nation's leaders work together to secure \$14.7 million in Capital Outlay Funds in New Mexico

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer thank the New Mexico State Legislature and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham for their support of infrastructure funding through H.B. 349, which secured over \$14.7 million in Capital Outlay Funds for Navajo chapters located in the state of New Mexico. The bill funds more than \$422 million for projects throughout the entire state.

In late February, the legislature approved \$532 million overall, which included \$25 million for the Navajo Nation. However, these amounts were reduced by Gov. Lujan Grisham's veto actions due to recent declines in the stock market, which created uncertainties over the state's revenue projections. In a letter to New Mexico House Speaker Brian Egolf, Jr. on March 11, Gov. Lujan Grisham wrote, "at this time of global economic uncertainty, it has become necessary and fiscally prudent to veto some projects that otherwise have merit, particularly those funded from general fund monies that would otherwise be available to bolster reserves."

"On behalf of our communities in the state of New Mexico, I extend my appreciation and gratitude to Gov. Lujan Grisham and the members of the New Mexico State Legislature for supporting these much-needed infrastructure development projects," said President Nez. "We understand the concerns raised over revenue projections due to the stock market. For our Nation, we have similar concerns. I also thank Speaker Seth Damon and the members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council for their advocacy and support to secure funding for our Navajo communities."

Throughout the New Mexico State Legislature's 30-day session, President Nez, Vice President Lizer, and the 24th Navajo Nation Council met with legislators and Gov. Lujan Grisham on several occasions to advocate for the approval of Capital Outlay Funds.

"This is another great achievement for our Navajo people. As we move forward, it's very important that the chapters that received funds this year and in previous years continue to work closely with the Division of Community Development and the state to complete projects and to report on the status of ongoing projects," stated Vice President Lizer.

READ MORE AT: https://www.facebook.com/NezLizer2018/posts/2448609252071270?_tn_ =K-R

Cancellation and Rescheduling of the DCD Navajo Chapter Technology Conference March 16-19, 2020

Window Rock, Ariz. — Due to a recent travel advisory issued by the Navajo Nation leadership as a safeguard against the coronavirus threat, the Division of Community Development is cancelling the Navajo Chapter Technology Conference that was scheduled for March 16-19, 2020. The conference will be rescheduled at a later time when the threat of coronavirus has diminished significantly. We will provide notice when the conference has been rescheduled.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Division of Community Development

17 MARCH - NAVAJO GAMING CASINOS ARE TEMPORARILY CLOSED THROUGH APRIL 6, 2020.

In support of the Navajo Nation's commitment to protecting the health, safety and general welfare of the Diné People, the Team Members of all Navajo enterprises and the guests who visit Diné Bikéyah ("Navajoland"), the Navajo Gaming Board of Directors has approved the temporary shutdown of our casino facilities for a three-week period, beginning at noon on Tuesday, 17 March 2020. We are scheduled to reopen our doors on Monday, 06 April 2020.

Respectfully,
Ahéhee' (Thank You)

READ MORE AT: <https://www.navajogaming.com/news/in-the-news/>

MARCH 2020

Bulletin Board

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19

11 March 2020

Good afternoon.

In the past two weeks, the number of cases of COVID-19 outside China has increased 13-fold, and the number of affected countries has tripled.

There are now more than 118,000 cases in 114 countries, and 4,291 people have lost their lives. Thousands more are fighting for their lives in hospitals.

In the days and weeks ahead, we expect to see the number of cases, the number of deaths, and the number of affected countries climb even higher.

WHO has been assessing this outbreak around the clock and we are deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction. We have therefore made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic. Pandemic is not a word to use lightly or carelessly. It is a word that, if misused, can cause unreasonable fear, or unjustified acceptance that the fight is over, leading to unnecessary suffering and death.

Describing the situation as a pandemic does not change WHO's assessment of the threat posed by this virus. It doesn't change what WHO is doing, and it doesn't change what countries should do. We have never before seen a pandemic sparked by a coronavirus. This is the first pandemic caused by a coronavirus. And we have never before seen a pandemic that can be controlled, at the same time.

WHO has been in full response mode since we were notified of the first cases. And we have called every day for countries to take urgent and aggressive action.

We have rung the alarm bell loud and clear.

As I said on Monday, just looking at the number of cases and the number of countries affected does not tell the full story.

Of the 118,000 cases reported globally in 114 countries, more than 90 percent of cases are in just four countries, and two of those – China and the Republic of Korea - have significantly declining epidemics. 81 countries have not reported any cases, and 57 countries have reported 10 cases or less.

We cannot say this loudly enough, or clearly enough, or often enough: all countries can still change the course of this pandemic. If countries detect, test, treat, isolate, trace, and mobilize their people in the response, those with a handful of cases can prevent those cases becoming clusters, and those clusters becoming community transmission. Even those countries with community transmission or large clusters can turn the tide on this virus.

Several countries have demonstrated that this virus can be suppressed and controlled. The challenge for many countries who are now dealing with large clusters or community transmission is not whether they can do the same – it's whether they will. Some countries are struggling with a lack of capacity. Some countries are struggling with a lack of resources. Some countries are struggling with a lack of resolve.

We are grateful for the measures being taken in Iran, Italy and the Republic of Korea to slow the virus and control their epidemics.

We know that these measures are taking a heavy toll on societies and economies, just as they did in China.

All countries must strike a fine balance between protecting health, minimizing economic and social disruption, and respecting human rights.

WHO's mandate is public health. But we're working with many partners across all sectors to mitigate the social and economic consequences of this pandemic.

This is not just a public health crisis, it is a crisis that will touch every sector – so every sector and every individual must be involved in the fight. I have said from the beginning that countries must take a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, built around a comprehensive strategy to prevent infections, save lives and minimize impact. Let me summarize it in four key areas. First, prepare and be ready. Second, detect, protect and treat. Third, reduce transmission. Fourth, innovate and learn.

I remind all countries that we are calling on you to activate and scale up your emergency response mechanisms; Communicate with your people about the risks and how they can protect themselves – this is everybody's business; Find, isolate, test and treat every case and trace every contact; Ready your hospitals; Protect and train your health workers. And let's all look out for each other, because we need each other.

===

There's been so much attention on one word. Let me give you some other words that matter much more, and that are much more actionable. Prevention. Preparedness. Public health. Political leadership. And most of all, people. We're in this together, to do the right things with calm and protect the citizens of the world. It's doable.

I thank you.

READ MORE AT: <http://bit.ly/33y8zZ6>

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Bulletin Board



Nez-Lizer congratulate Navajo Chief of Police Francisco for graduating from the FBI National Academy

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer commend and congratulate Navajo Police Chief Phillip B. Francisco for successfully completing the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. Chief Francisco completed the demanding 10-week program and graduated on Friday at the academy headquarters located in Quantico, VA.

The FBI National Academy is a professional development course for domestic and international law enforcement leaders who are selected through a nomination process. Police Chief Francisco was nominated by Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Executive Director Jesse Delmar. He is one of 255 leaders representing state, local, county, tribal, military, federal, and international law enforcement professionals who graduated on Friday.

“We are very proud of Chief Francisco and we congratulate him. Under his and Mr. Delmar’s leadership, we’ve seen great improvements in public safety in our communities and with the knowledge and experience he gained at the FBI Academy, he’ll be able to help our people even more,” said President Nez.

Since Chief Francisco became the head of the Navajo Police Department in August

2016, the Nation has reopened its police academy in the community of Chinle, which led to a substantial increase in the number of police officers serving Navajo communities.

“The police presence in our communities has increased under Chief Francisco and that’s very commendable. We’re excited that he’s completed the FBI Academy training and we look forward to what that has to offer for our Navajo people in terms of continuing to provide greater public safety,” said Vice President Lizer.

Executive Director Delmar stated his recommendation reflected Police Chief Francisco’s excellent leadership as Chief of Police for the Navajo Police Department.

“We are all very proud and grateful Chief was selected to attend this academy. He is paving the way for the future leaders of the Navajo Police Department,” said Delmar.

Chief Francisco studied under a 10-week training program offering a prestigious law enforcement curriculum in executive development and leadership program. The coursework reflected a variety of academics, including law, behavior science, law enforcement communication, forensic science, terrorism/terrorism mindset, intelligence theory, and physical fitness.

“I am extremely grateful for this opportunity. Being a part of this academy and representing our Navajo Police Department has been a humbling experience. The camaraderie I have built with professionals around the world is a valuable network that will benefit our NPD leaders. What I have learned here will be instilled within our department and will help to elevate the public safety services we provide the Navajo people.” Police Chief Francisco said.

Upon his return to the Navajo Nation, Police Chief Francisco will be required to comply with the 14-day self-quarantine policy as a preventive measure against the potential spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The health and safety of our law enforcement officers and our communities is a top priority.

READ MORE AT: <http://bit.ly/3aTdUwP>

Bulletin Board

Utah's big earthquake: Buildings damaged, but no major injuries, as state braces for days of aftershocks

Magna, Utah - A magnitude 5.7 earthquake struck Magna at 7:09 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, shaking homes from Logan down to Utah County. It was the state's largest since a 1992 earthquake in St. George. The last Salt Lake County earthquake of at least a magnitude 5 was in 1962.

Here's a recap of Wednesday's events:

- A strong aftershock was felt at 1:12 p.m. It registered a 4.6.
- Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County declared earthquake related emergencies, giving them access to federal funds.
- There were power outages, gas leaks and a chemical spill at Kennecott. The acid spill, and a plume it released into the air, was not threatening the public, officials say.
- There have been no reports of serious injuries.
- Rumors of a big earthquake coming are untrue, a forecast of potential aftershocks is included below.
- The earthquake has caused damage to downtown buildings and even the Salt Lake Temple, where the Angel Moroni statue lost its trumpet.
- The Salt Lake City International Airport has reopened. Some state courts have closed.
- In West Valley City, 48 mobile homes were shifted off of their foundations, displacing residents. A Red Cross evacuation center has opened at Valley Junior High School, 4295 3200 West.

"All things considered, we've been very fortunate," Utah Gov. Gary Herbert said.

The epicenter of the earthquake was northeast of Magna, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Dozens of aftershocks followed. It's likely there will be hundreds of aftershocks in the days to come, Keith Koper, director of the University of Utah Seismograph Stations.

He called it a moderate size earthquake, one that hits the state roughly every 10 years. Such temblors are capable of causing "considerable" damage.

Chances of another big quake

Rumors spread fast that a major earthquake would hit soon. That is not true.

The Utah Emergency Management posted on Twitter, "There are rumors out there that earthquakes can be predicted. They cannot be predicted, however, we expect that the earthquake we felt today was the largest one of the sequence. That is true in 95% of earthquakes."

Koper said his team is not predicting any large earthquake.

The U.S. Geological Survey issued an aftershock forecast. It said there's a 1 in 300 chance of a magnitude 7 hitting in the coming days, while a 6 is a 3% likelihood. A magnitude 5 or higher is a 17% chance.



Construction workers at a building after an earthquake in Salt Lake City on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Rick Bowmer / AP

READ MORE AT: <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2020/03/18/earthquake-hits-utah/>

Cameron Community gets wood delivery



Joe Dirt Excavating delivers wood at the Cameron Chapter House March 6. The delivery is part of a pilot project by the National Forest Foundation, U.S. Forest Service and the Cameron Chapter to provide wood to residents who may not be able to travel to retrieve it from the forests. (Katherine Locke/NHO)

By Katherine Locke Originally Published: March 17, 2020 8:33 a.m.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A pilot project to bring wood from a Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) to Cameron, Arizona was a success as a truck from Joe Dirt Excavation unloaded a load of ponderosa pine remnants March 6.

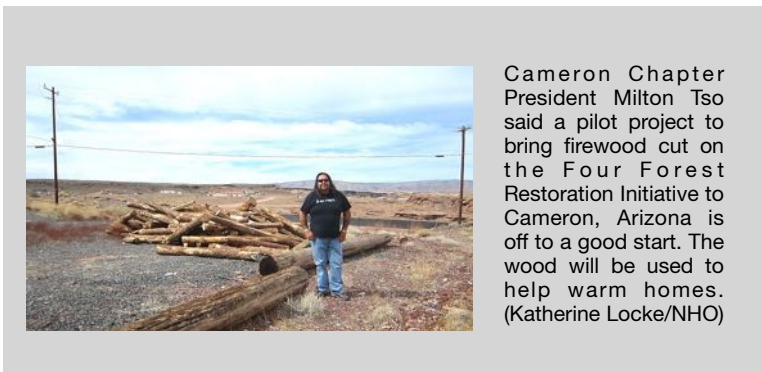
Milton Tso, Cameron Chapter president, said at first the wood would be stockpiled in the back of the chapter, with the goal of it being available for Cameron Chapter residents.

“Hopefully, with some help from the Navajo Nation, we’ll get some equipment to split it up,” Tso said. “We want to help our elders and people with a disability, or a single parent who is struggling, anyone who needs wood. We might deliver some by chapter truck.”

Ultimately, Tso said he hopes the wood can be delivered beyond Cameron — with Cameron being a hub where the wood can initially be stored and other chapters can come pick it up from there. He does caution that he doesn’t want people who are able to cut wood themselves to become dependent on the wood at the Cameron Chapter.

“We want the young people to still take care of their elders. We have to be careful that all our wood haulers don’t become overweight,” Tso said with a laugh. “We are looking for volunteers. If we had some guys out here, they could help buck up the wood and stack it.”

One of the positives for the chapters — the wood is free for the tribes it is being delivered to.



Cameron Chapter President Milton Tso said a pilot project to bring firewood cut on the Four Forest Restoration Initiative to Cameron, Arizona is off to a good start. The wood will be used to help warm homes. (Katherine Locke/NHO)

The National Forest Foundation, which is the official non-profit partner of the U.S. Forest Service, worked with Joe Dirt Excavation to purchase the wood and to provide for the transportation to Cameron.

“We felt like we really liked the idea of getting some of the wood from Flagstaff out here and then distributed to elders and folks who really can’t afford to come into the forest and cut their own wood,” said Henry Provencio, innovations and inefficiencies coordinator for the Forest Service with the 4FRI project, who was on hand to see the delivery of wood in Cameron on March 6.

Provencio points out, for families who have to drive to get the wood, the cost could be over a hundred dollars.

“You have drive and cut it,” he said. “A lot of folks don’t have that ability. So, if we make the wood available, at least in the beginning to some of the [places] right on the edge (of the reservations) then maybe we can work to distribute that further into Hopi, as well.”

Provencio said the National Forest Foundation is the entity that made the wood delivery happen.

A lot of the work the National Forest Foundation does in northern Arizona is about minimizing fire and flood risk, helping improve forest health for wildlife and water sustainability.

“We look at expanding the ways that we can work to help support those restoration efforts,” said Rachel Davidson, director of the Southern Rockies Field Program for the National Forest Foundation. “Part of that is figuring out what to do with residual wood supplies that are coming from the restoration projects site.”

She said the foundation began to talk with the Coconino National Forest and the Kaibab National Forest about the need to remove wood.

“And then, subsequently, about the need of the tribes to receive fuel wood because of some of the shutdowns of the local coal facilities,” Davidson said. “We thought it would be a really amazing opportunity to find some win-wins so that the National Forest Foundation could support tribal needs and community fuel while also looking for opportunities to basically get rid of those fuel supplies on National Forest lands as part of the restoration projects that we’re undertaking.”

The wood delivered to Cameron was residual wood from a local, small milling facility outside of Williams. But the wood came from A-1 mountain in the Coconino National Forest.

The foundation and all partners involved stress the delivery on March 6 was a pilot.

“It was really a pilot of how we can move the wood, where and how we coordinate with the tribes and making sure that we have that sort of connection and relationship built,” Davidson said. “The next project we’re looking to help fund will be from Locket Meadow where the forest already has some wood that’s been cut from the campground trying to minimize that fire risk, but the wood is still out on the project site.”

Davidson said the foundation would look at hiring an ancestral land crew to help buck up the wood and then move it down to staging areas.

“We’re still looking at how we can transport it to both the Hopi and Navajo tribes,” she said. “We’re really crossing our fingers from our perspective because we see some tremendous community benefits with the tribes and we are excited to build those relationships. From a restoration perspective, trying to minimize fire risks and community flood risk, there’s a huge opportunity to use that wood in a way that is far more beneficial than it sitting at a mill site and not being used or valued.”

Tso pictures how this could help a lot of the chapters on the western side of the Navajo Nation. Leupp Chapter, Tuba City, and Coalmine Chapter were just a few of the chapters he mentioned as places that could all benefit from having wood delivered. “It isn’t happen on its own,” said King. “Awareness is not just happening now, it’s been long coming. There has been people who have worked on this way back when, then put it aside ... it’s been ongoing.”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.nhonline.com/news/2020/mar/17/cameron-gets-wood-delivery/>

Dikos Ntsaaígíí-Náhást'éíts'áadah

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Naalnii' bee ééhózinígíí

(Symptoms can include)

*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.



Ts'íísniidóóh

(Fever)

Dikos

(Cough)



Ch'ééh jididzih

(Shortness of Breath)

If you have been in close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks and develop symptoms, contact your local hospital and/or physician. Call your local hospital before you go to a hospital.

For more information:
Navajo Department of Health
(P) 928.871.7014
(E) ndoh@navajo-nsn.gov

Website:
<http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>



Dikos Ntsaaígíí-Náhást'éíts'áadah

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE RESPIRATORY DISEASES LIKE COVID-19.

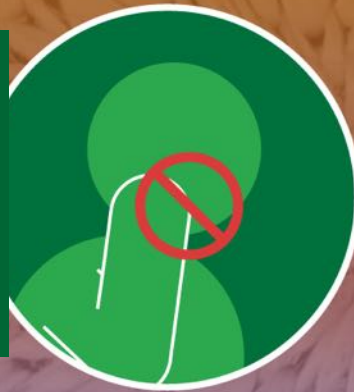
**Bitah dahoneezgai'lgíí
bits'aa nanínáh**

Avoid close contact
with people who are
sick.



**Áadóó nináá' níchííh
dóó nizéé' t'áádoó
bídílnihí**

Avoid touching your
eyes, nose, and
mouth.



**Dílkosgo dóó
Háts'íyaa dinígo
Chíjbee Yit'oodí
chiiníí' dóó Ts'ilzééh
biíh hi'níí' biyí'jil'
kódííííí**

Cover your cough or
sneeze with a tissue,
then throw the tissue
in the trash.



Avoid touching your
eyes, nose, and
mouth.

**T'áadoole'í áláhji'
chiiníí'ngíí' bíná'íjot**

Clean and disinfect
frequently touched
objects and surfaces.



**Nitah honeezgalgo
t'áá hooghandi
sínídá t'áá hazhó'ó
azee' naah ádoolníí'
binliyé'go t'éiyá**

Stay home when you
are sick, except to
get medical care.



**T'áá nihíla'
t'ánínádaahgis txíjigo
yíkósigíí naadiindah
alzhiinjí' bíighahjí'**

Wash your hands
often with soap and
water for at least 20
seconds.



For more information:
Navajo Department of Health
(P) 928.871.7014
(E) ndoh@navajo-nsn.gov

Website:
<http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>



U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham on Operational Updates

MARCH 18, 2020

RELEASE NUMBER CB20-RTQ.08

MARCH 18, 2020 – Less than one week ago, the 2020 Census fully kicked off, and invitations continue to arrive in mailboxes across the nation. As of this morning, more than eleven million households have responded. America is stepping up to shape our future and ensure families and communities are counted.

Beginning today, in support of guidance on what we can all do to help slow the spread of coronavirus, 2020 Census field operations will be suspended for two weeks until April 1, 2020. The Census Bureau is taking this step to help protect the health and safety of the American public, Census Bureau employees, and everyone going through the hiring process for temporary census taker positions.

During this pause in field operations, the Census Bureau will continue to evaluate all 2020 Census operations. Should any additional adjustments need to be made, the Census Bureau will communicate these changes broadly and promptly.

In late May, census takers around the nation will begin visiting households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census to help complete the count. As we continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, we will adjust census taker and survey operations as necessary in order to follow the guidance of federal, state and local health authorities.

The public is strongly encouraged to respond to the 2020 Census online using a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet, and can also respond by phone or mail. Everyone should respond to the 2020 Census as soon as they receive their invitation – and when they're finished, they can make sure their friends, families and social networks know about the importance of responding.

It has never been easier to respond to the census, and the 2020 Census will count everyone accurately. We recognize that many people plan to access the 2020 Census through other response modes, such as phone or paper, which is why the 2020 Census has such a nimble design.

On March 15, 2020, the Census Bureau announced several adaptations to our group quarters operations to accommodate recent scheduling changes on college campuses as leadership takes action to keep students and faculty safe.

For all other Census Bureau household and economic surveys separate from the 2020 Decennial Census, Bureau personnel will begin using phone calls instead of in-person visits. In the limited number of instances where an in-person visit is necessary, we are working closely with public health authorities to ensure each visit is accomplished safely.

Once again, we encourage everyone to respond online today at [2020Census.gov](https://2020census.gov). With the flexibility and support of the American people, we will achieve a complete and accurate count which helps guide funding decisions for things like hospitals, roads and emergency services. Respondents can also respond by calling the number provided in their invitation or by mail once they have received a paper form.

READ MORE AT: <https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/press-releases/operational-updates.html>

COVID-19 SIMPLIFIED FACT SHEET

- SOCIAL DISTANCING:** means not shaking hands, avoiding crowds, standing several feet away from other people, and staying home if you feel sick.
Why is this necessary? The ultimate goal is to break the chain of transmission. You want to decrease the risk of infecting a lot of people at the same time. As an individual, you have a very real & important role in breaking this transmission because, for every individual who gets infected, two to three others will be affected.
- SELF-MONITORING:** might include regularly checking your temperature & watching for signs of a respiratory illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath).
Why is this necessary? Say you attended a party/conference, and you found out later that someone there tested positive for the virus:
 - If you weren't near them = **SELF-MONITOR** since you're not at risk
 - If you had a long conversation with them/ that person was coughing & sneezing near you = **SELF-ISOLATE** chance you have the virus & can spread to others
- SELF-ISOLATION:** when you're sick/show symptoms of the virus (high temperature, new continuous cough).
 - if you have symptoms, stay at home for **7 days**
 - if you live with other people, they should stay at home for **14 days** from the day the first person got symptoms**Why is this necessary?** An individual who is sick can pass the virus on (to family, neighbours, or people on the bus). Some of these newly infected people may end up in hospital since they're a lot weaker, and they'll fill up a LOT of beds needed by other people (cancer patients, new-borns, car accident victims, etc).
 - Yes, you *might* have to **SELF-ISOLATE** more than once to break the chain/transmission, for example:
 - o you go into 2 weeks of self-isolation because you *thought* you had the virus
 - o Afterwards, you go out & *actually* get the virus– you **need** to self-isolate **again** to break this chain, so it's not passed on.

Source(s):

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://choice.npr.org/index.html?origin=https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/03/16/816490025/quarantine-self-isolation-social-distancing-what-they-mean-and-when-to-do-them>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/16/how-to-social-distance-convince-friends-family>

MARCH 2020

The DCD Newsletter, "Community Info", is produced monthly by the Division of Community Development and is a resource for division staff and chapters.

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