



P.O. Box 1099
Ohkay Owingeh, NM 87566
PHONE (505) 852-4400
FAX (505) 852-4820

Date: May 7, 2020

To: Ohkay Owingeh Tribal and Community Members

From: Tribal Administration

Re: Updates COVID-19

Message from Tribal Officials,

Last week I ended my message by saying mid-May was just two weeks away, well now it's only 1 week away. Please continue to stay home and do not compromise yourself or your family. We have another tribal Member who tested positive, but as in previous cases this tribal member does not live here. My reason for telling you this is so that you realize how close and real the danger still is.

Updates:

- In conjunction with the State of New Mexico Department of Health and Human Services and City of Espanola we will be hosting another testing for COVID-19 on May 22 and 23. The testing will take place at the Ohkay Casino. The morning of May 22, will be reserved for Ohkay Owingeh, you can go anytime but the line is likely to be shorter in the morning of May 22. Afternoon of May 22 and the 23rd the testing will be open to anyone.
- Testing – Please consider getting tested. The reason testing is important is because it is the only way to determine if we are truly without cases here in our local community. The more we can determine this, the better decisions we can make about re-opening things up.
- June Activities – On Wednesday May 6, 2020 the Tribal Council deliberated our upcoming feast days of both St. Anthony and St. John in consideration of this worldwide pandemic. For the most part the Council determined to wait and see how things go through the month of May. We will discuss the matter again on May 20, 2020. There was one aspect of the feast day celebrations that a decision was made and I want to communicate this to you. The carnival and vendor aspect of the feast is cancelled at this time.

Thank You

Please check our webpage for updates ohkay.org



P.O. Box 1099
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Date: May 1, 2020

To: Ohkay Owingeh Tribal and Community Members

From: Tribal Administration

Re: Updates COVID-19

Message from Tribal Officials,

I hope and pray that all of you are doing well out there. I am happy to report that as of writing Ohkay still has no positives in our local community. I attribute this success to you all, you have taken actions and or steps to protect yourself and the results speak for themselves. I need to ask you to keep it up a little longer, as you have probably seen on news media there are certain parts of our state that are doing well, however we still have some areas that are problematic and we should therefore not let up. I'm going to go out on limb here and tell you that I predict first phase of partial opening up in Mid-May, that's just two weeks on a 7 day week. Hang in there.

Updates:

- We have taken the first steps toward the re-opening of tribal government. After consultation with our COVID-19 Response Team, the decision was made to start bringing back non-essential staff on a part time basis. The building is still closed to public but you can now receive some services on limited basis, please call and we can help direct you.
- The New Moon Lodge will re-opening under new guidelines that are intended to eliminate the risk of clients coming in with COVID-19
- Utility Payments – We will continue with the suspension or not requiring payment at this time for utility bills. The department is not turning water off that too has been suspended. Our Public Works division is working on a plan to accommodate the missed months.
- There is a Food Giveaway being conducted at the Ohkay Casino Parking lot. **It will happen again this coming Wednesday May 6, 2020.** This activity is being conducted by the Santa Fe Food Depot, a non-profit organization. The Tsay Corporation is merely letting them use the parking lot.
- Gardening – Please be cautious about not making your home gardens to large if you are going to use domestic water. I'm not saying you cannot plant gardens and use your hose to water, were just saying that if you do this, please be cautious about the size of garden you plant.

Thank You



P.O. Box 1099
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Date: April 21, 2020

To: Ohkay Owingeh Tribal and Community Members

From: Tribal Administration

Re: New burial procedures and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) – COVID -19

Message from Tribal Officials,

- I want to make all Tribal members aware of new temporary burial procedures. Please review the post on this web page that outlines the new/modified protocols we have put in place. The tribal Council and our Spiritual Leaders have all come to an agreement on this.
- How long will the stay at home order be in place? The quick answer is I don't know. We are right now developing a plan to start at least a slow phased re-opening, but as to when, it depends on some criteria that we are monitoring. First and foremost is the data, I am speaking here to the number of cases of COVID-19. As soon as we see these numbers hold or not grow it will be indicative of reaching the peak (you have probably heard the phrase flattening the curve - same thing). Once we reach peak it should start declining. There are other variables as well, but this is probably the main criteria for lifting the order.
- Is our Pueblo Closed? Yes, but to clarify further it is closed to those who have no reason to be here. It is not closed on the basis of if you are a Tribal member or not a Tribal member. Consider, we have numerous non-tribal members who live and work here, we have numerous programs who offer services to non-tribal members, and we have neighbors who pass through daily to get home. Can non-tribal people exercise/walk on our lands? Yes, so long as they and we practice distancing. The enemy here is not the non-tribal member rather it is the COVID-19 which is only a threat if we have close contact with others. Outdoors and distance the risk is minimal. It's why we still have Pueblo non-tribal contractors doing work here still today.

Thank You

Please check our webpage for updates ohkay.org



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Date: April 20, 2020

To: Ohkay Owingeh Tribal and Community Members

From: Tribal Administration

Re: Updates COVID-19

Message from Tribal Officials,

As we enter week 5 of the stay at home order, I want to offer our sincere gratitude for your adherence to the order. I also want to/need to ask that you please continue to comply with the order. I know it can be difficult at times but please consider it is for the safety and health of you and your families. I am hopeful that the stay at home order can be lifted in the near future. The updates below will close out several matters and reiterate services available during these times.

Updates:

- We have received 100% of the results from the 174 people tested on Sunday, 04/05/20. No positives.
- An area of concern this pandemic has affected is our handling of the deceased. We have had to make adjustments. We are working on a new procedures or guidance document that I will post on the web as soon as finalized.
- Essential needs, food & medical supplies – Our H&HS division can provide delivery of any needed food/medical supplies. Please call them at 852-2354 if you need assistance. We are also working on a food delivery program whereby our Popay messenger transportation program will pick up preordered groceries from stores that offer this service. Please watch this web page for announcements and information.
- The utility payments for April are deferred until further notice. This means that the payments are not being accepted right now and all utility shut offs are not happening. In the future we will determine if we eliminate or work up a collection plan to get everyone current.
- Our tribal government is open to answer any questions or help if we can, our building is closed but our phone numbers are listed and we can talk via phone, email or text.

Thank You

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Date: April 7, 2020

To: Ohkay Owingeh Tribal and Community Members

From: Tribal Administration

Re: Updates COVID-19

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R M J", is written over the "From:" and "Re:" lines.

Hope this update finds you and yours doing well, please stay home to degree possible. And thank you for your compliance thus far. We have no new cases to report.

- The positive at New Moon Lodge has been contained and all staff and client tests are negative.
- The Tribal member who resides in Albuquerque and tested positive, has recovered. No further positives have been identified.
- We tested 174 Tribal members on April 5, 2020. The test was conducted by state of New Mexico Dept. of Health. It focused on identified individuals who potentially had or will have contact with a positive. This includes Ohkay Health and Human Services and Public Safety Officers.

In response to inquiries as to who the positives are, we cannot disclose as HIPPA laws keep an individual's medical condition Confidential.

Please remain diligent and follow all recommendations

Thank You

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Date: April 5, 2020

To: Ohkay Owingeh Tribal and Community Members

From: Tribal Administration

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Rmf", is written over the "From" and "Re" lines of the letter.

Re: Tribal Member has tested positive COVID-19

I was informed yesterday that we have a Tribal member confirmed positive for COVID-19. This Tribal member lives in Albuquerque, however was here visiting in the past couple of weeks. The two cases we have here on our lands 1) New Moon and 2) this case, are the result of people coming here from other places. Please tell family and friends to stay at their place of residence until this passes. It's the reason for the Stay at Home Order.

I have received numerous calls about updates and not getting notice, due to the nature of this crisis I cannot distribute notices or announcements to the homes. I need you to check our web page "Ohkay.org" and pass the word.

Thank You

Please check our webpage for updates ohkay.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Media Contact: David Morgan
Media and Social Media Manager, NMDOH
Email: david.morgan@state.nm.us
Mobile: (575) 649-0754

April 1, 2020

**Department of Health announces revised
testing criteria for COVID-19**

Guidelines relaxed to allow more New Mexicans to be tested.

SANTA FE –The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) is providing today revised testing criteria announced by Department of Health Cabinet Secretary Kathy Kunkel during Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham’s news conference Tuesday afternoon.

Thanks to increased statewide testing capacity, the following people may now be considered for COVID-19 testing:

- Asymptomatic people who are close contacts or household members of New Mexico residents who have already tested positive for the coronavirus;
- Asymptomatic residents in nursing homes;
- Asymptomatic people in congregant settings such as homeless shelters, group homes, detention centers;
- Symptomatic people displaying the COVID-19 symptoms of cough, fever or shortness of breath.

Previous testing criteria consisted of those symptomatic or a recent out of state or country travel history.

“Studies are suggesting that asymptomatic people may be driving the spread of COVID-19, making it more difficult for containment,” said Secretary Kunkel. “If we can keep more asymptomatic COVID-19 positive patients at home and not out in public, the more effective we will be at flattening the curve.”

New Mexicans with health-related questions can call our coronavirus hotline at 855-600-3453. For non-health-related questions or concerns call **833-551-0518** or visit newmexico.gov, which is being updated and finalized as a one-stop source for information.

The state Department of Health updates its [dedicated COVID-19 webpage](#) with additional tests as the state lab provides results.



Tips from the Federal Trade Commission

How to Spot, Avoid and Report CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding the Coronavirus. The Federal Trade Commission (ftc.gov/coronavirus) offers these tips to help you **fight back**.

Treatments & Cures

Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. If you see ads touting prevention, treatment, or cure claims for the Coronavirus, stop. If there's a medical breakthrough, you're not going to hear about it for the first time from an ad or sales pitch. At this time, there also are no FDA-authorized home test kits for the Coronavirus.

Email and Text Scams

Don't click on links from sources you don't know. It could download a virus onto your computer or device. Make sure the anti-malware and anti-virus software on your computer is up to date.

Robocalls

Hang up on illegal robocallers. Don't press any numbers. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but it might lead to more robocalls, instead.

Government Relief Checks

Expect scammers to take advantage of this. Here's what you need to know: The government will not ask you to pay anything up front to get this money. The government will not call to ask for your Social Security number, bank account, or credit card number. Anyone who does is a scammer.

Fake Charities

Do your homework when it comes to donations. Use the organizations listed at ftc.gov/charity to help you research charities. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

Misinformation & Rumors

Before you pass on any messages, do some fact checking by contacting trusted sources. Visit usa.gov/coronavirus for links to federal, state and local government agencies.

Stay informed:

1 Visit:

- ftc.gov/coronavirus
- coronavirus.gov
- usa.gov/coronavirus

2

Report suspicious claims or questionable practices to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

3

Keep up with the latest scams. Sign up for the FTC's Consumer Alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.



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OHKAY OWINGEH
Stay At Home Order
March 23, 2020

Date: March 23, 2020

To: Ohkay Owingeh Tribal and Community Members

From: Tribal Administration

Re: *Stay at Home Order*

Please be advised that in conjunction with the State of New Mexico executive order to "Stay at home", Ohkay Owingeh is hereby issuing our own Stay at Home Order. Effective 10:00 PM today the 23rd of March 2020, Ohkay Owingeh is hereby issuing a Stay at Home Order. The only exceptions to this order are 1) essential Infrastructure workers, 2) travel for food and 3) medical attention. Ohkay Owingeh law enforcement will be enforcing this mandate. Please, Please adhere to this message.

Thank You

Please check our webpage for updates ohkay.org

Greetings from Tribal Administration,

In consideration of recent events I want to provide information about tribal programs during these times of crisis. Many of these information points are based on inquiries we have already received in the office. If your question is not answered please feel free to call.

1. Is the Drinking Water Safe? Yes the drinking water is safe. Our Ohkay Natural Resource Environment department, tests the water and will continue to monitor this on an on-going basis. Please rest assured the DRINKING WATER IS SAFE.
2. Ditch Work? **Ditch work for 2020 is CANCELLED.** Please help pass the word. Our rationale for the cancellation is twofold 1) There is a lot of water in ditch system and 2) COVID-19 and our efforts to not gather large groups of people.
3. Are Tribal Admin Offices Open? The Tribal government is open, however we are operating on an “Essential Personnel” only mode. Furthermore access to the Administration building will be limited. This means the doors will be locked and we are encouraging people to call ahead. Related to this we have also instituted the following;
 - a) Utility payments will cease and all shut offs are suspended indefinitely
 - b) General Assistance recipients will be asked to call ahead
 - c) Seniors, Wellness, BGC and teen Center are closed. Employees will work together to provide meals via home delivery to seniors. They will also be doing welfare checks
 - d) PD will be on duty, however courts will be closing except for emergencies. This suspends all PO, ticket payment etc.
 - e) All tribal departments will be allowing employees to work from home and or use vacation and sick leave if they so choose.
4. The Program directorates and Tribal Officials will be available to help in any way we can. Below is a listing of our contact information.
 - a. Ron Lovato - 505.660.6113
 - b. Albert Bowie - 505.927.7593
 - c. James Trujillo - 505.423.3223
 - d. Ken Maes - 505.901.7493
 - e. Donovan Trujillo, Public Safety – 505.927.5600
 - f. Ben Lujan, Public Works – 505.927.5622
 - g. Leonard Montoya, Health Human services - 505.927.3660
 - h. Larry Phillips, Natural Resources – 505.927.1398

There are a lot of false rumors out there, please do not panic. We will continue to update the community with factual information through our website www.ohkay.org. We are here to help, but you also need to take care of yourself, be cautious and follow all posted recommendations.

Ohkay Owingeh Tribal Administration

NM Department of Health regarding questions centered around testing. Below are common questions that I have been asked.

Question 1: When will an individual be given a COVID-19 test?

Answer: COVID-19 test will only be given to individuals who meet the criteria of having fever of 100.4 or above, shortness of breath, traveled outside of NM, and/or been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. NMDOH did state that the main driver for the COVID-19 test is the fever of **100.4**, complemented with any of symptoms listed above.

NMDOH is recommending that individuals call the NMDOH hotline number of 1-855-600-3453 if they are experiencing symptoms and 1-833-551-0518 if individuals have general questions. It is important for individuals to call the symptom hotline before actually going into the hospital. OOHHS is recommending that community members call Josie Shije at 505-423-4373.

Question 2: If an individual from Rio Arriba County gets tested in Santa Fe and comes up positive, will the positive test result reflect Santa Fe County or Rio Arriba County?

Answer: The test result will reflect the residency of where that individual lives. In our example above, the test result will show up in Rio Arriba County.

Message from Ohkay Owingeh regarding COVID-19

Latest news

March 17: NMDOH has 23 more cases reported in New Mexico

A breakdown of positive cases by county:

- Bernalillo County: 14
- Sandoval County: 2
- Santa Fe County: 4
- Socorro County: 2
- Taos County: 1
- At this time, there are 0 confirmed cases in Ohkay Owingeh and in our County of Rio Arriba.

March 12: 2 more cases reported in New Mexico

- The New Mexico Department of Health has confirmed two more cases of COVID-19 in New Mexico.
- Of these five cases, one is in Santa Fe County and two are in Bernalillo County.
- At this time, there are 0 confirmed cases in Ohkay Owingeh and in our County of Rio Arriba.

March 11: First 3 cases reported in New Mexico

- The New Mexico Department of Health has confirmed three cases of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, in New Mexico.
- At this time, there are 0 confirmed cases in Ohkay Owingeh and in our County of Rio Arriba.

Where to get questions answered about COVID-19

The Health & Human Services Division has designated Public Health Nurse Josie Shije to answer questions: (505) 852-2354. After regular business hours, you may contact Josie Shije (505) 423-4373 or Sharon Genera at (505) 927-9825.

What to do if you are around someone with symptoms or have symptoms yourself

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that anyone who has had close contact with someone confirmed to have, or is being evaluated for, COVID-19, should:

- Monitor health starting from the day of contact and continue monitoring for 14 days after.
- Watch for the following signs and symptoms: Fever, coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; chills, body aches, sore throat, and runny nose.

If you develop fever or any of the above symptoms, please call Ohkay Owingeh Public Health Nurse Josie Shije at 505-423-4373 and she can assist you with coordination with your healthcare provider.

How to prevent transmission

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent spread of illness, including:

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands

- Stay 3 to 6 feet away from sick people as the virus is often spread by the spray of droplets
- Stay home when you have any flu-like symptoms (see list above)
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues and throw tissues in the trash
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (if soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol)
- Avoid handshaking or person to person contact if possible
- Please use hand sanitizer as frequent as possible

What the Ohkay Owingeh Tribal Government is doing

- All out of state travel have been canceled until further notice. In state travel is at the discretion of the Ohkay Owingeh Divisional Directors.
- Employees are encouraged to stay home if they are sick or experiencing flu like symptoms.
- We have vamped up sanitation efforts in the administration building as a precautionary health measure.
- It is recommending that any business within the tribal government office should be limited to essential business.
- All community events and gatherings have been postponed to further notice.

Resources General information

- [CDC: Coronavirus Updates](#)
- [CDC: Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel](#)
- [CDC: Risk Assessment](#)
- [New Mexico Department of Health: Coronavirus](#)

Maps and dashboards

- [Real Time Map of Global Coronavirus Cases by Johns Hopkins](#)
- [World Health Organization Map](#)

Ohkay Owingeh Coronavirus Advisory Team activated

Ohkay Owingeh Tribal Administration, Ohkay Owingeh Health & Human Division and Ohkay Owingeh Coronavirus Response Team has been established to provide leadership with comprehensive recommendations.

The Ohkay Owingeh Health & Human Services Division has a Coronavirus plan that provides a framework for how to respond to situations such as coronavirus.

Indian Health Service, Santa Fe Service Unit
COVID-19 Response and what you can expect when you come for a visit

The Santa Fe Service Unit and our clinics at San Felipe, Cochiti, and Santa Clara are now pre-screening ALL patients for symptoms of COVID-19 before they enter any of our clinics.

We are doing this to protect patients who are not sick, to protect our healthcare workers and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or concerns related to COVID-19, please call our dedicated **COVID-19 Hotline at (505) 946-9200** from **8:00am-7:30pm, 7 days a week**. This is a new phone line that has been created for the purpose of assisting patients who have questions specific to COVID-19.

Please call the COVID-19 Hotline **BEFORE** you come to the clinic if you are having symptoms of fever, sore throat, chills, cough, or shortness of breath. If we can't answer immediately, PLEASE leave a voicemail. We will call you back.

If you are having a medical emergency, please call 911.

You can also call the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) COVID-19 Hotline at 1-855-600-3453 and they can answer your questions and arrange for COVID-19 testing, if necessary.

This a rapidly changing situation, and we are working very hard to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

PHARMACY REFILLS: If you require a pharmacy refill please follow the normal process and call 24 hours in advance (505) 946-9376. If you are having symptoms of flu-like illness, we will bring your refill to you at your vehicle.

We are committed to serving you and our communities, and to providing you with exceptional medical care and support.



Ohkay Owingeh CHR Program

P.O. Box 1531
Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico 87566
Phone (505) 852-2354 • Fax (505) 852-3032

To: Leonard Montoya, Health & Human Services Director

FROM: Frances Abeyta, CHR Program Manager

SUBJECT: Transports

DATE: March 17, 2020

Please be advised that due to the COVID-19 Virus and for the health and safety of CHR's, we will not be transporting patients to their appointments until further notice.

We will however transport our Chronic Senior patients that do have to make their appointments. Their Health Care Providers will inform us with their appointment times.

We will be picking up medication and delivering.

If you have any questions and or concerns, please call our office phone at (505) 852-2354.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Cc: Community Members
All Departments
HHSS Deputy Director, Jr. Abeyta