

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

Community Government

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To: Ak-Chin Membership and Residents

From: Ak-Chin Community Council 

Date: June 18, 2020

First, the Community Council is hoping and praying that you and your families are doing well. The health and safety of the Ak-Chin Community is our highest priority. Our commitment to providing a safe and healthy Community remains the same. With that in mind, we want to provide an update to you on proactive steps being taken to safeguard Community members, residents, employees and guests from the global outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

On March 26, 2020, the Ak-Chin Community Council declared a State of Emergency due to the growing public health threat posed by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). To date, the Community has eight (8) positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases within the Community.

In our efforts to protect the health and safety of Community members, residents, employees, and guests, the Community Council has issued the following order and Memos: (Copies of the Orders and Memos are attached.)

- Order of the Chairman of the Ak-Chin Indian Community: Order limiting large events and mass gatherings (no more than 10 individuals)
- Declaration of Penalties for Non-Compliance With any Order of the Chairman Issued Pursuant to the State of Emergency Declared Pursuant to the COVID-19 Outbreak.
- Memo for all employees of the Community to wear masks or cloth face coverings at all times while at work.

On June 17, Arizona Governor Ducey announced that local governments within the State would be allowed to set their own rules with wearing of masks or face coverings. The City of Casa Grande and City of Tempe now requires those entering or exiting City facilities, residents and local business (patrons) to wear and require face masks when within 6 feet of others. The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) also announced today, that protective face coverings will be mandatory on GRIC tribal lands when in public locations.

Face masks can assist with reducing the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Community has obtained disposable face masks for Community members, residents and employees. If you're in need of face masks, please read the information below:

- The Ak-Chin Police Department will be distributing child-size face masks, specifically for ages 2-14 at the Ak-Chin Justice Facility parking lot on Saturday, June 20, from 10 AM – 2 PM.
- Members ages 15 on up can pick up face masks from the Community's Purchasing Department. Please contact Purchasing Manager, Flora Howerton at 520-56-1043, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8 AM – 5 PM to schedule a pick-up time.

The Community Council is continuing to taking proactive measures to protect high-risk populations and reduce risk for spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Community leaders and our community partners are continuing to work together in the best interests of the Community to remain informed, engaged, and prepared to help meet the evolving challenges resulting from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and provide the best solutions, information and direction in keeping everyone protected.

Community Members who are symptomatic or are concerned for exposure of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), please contact the Ak-Chin Health Clinic at 520-568-3881 to schedule an appointment. If there are questions regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns, please call the Gila River Health Care Corporation Coronavirus COVID-19 Hotline number at 520-550-6079 or visit the Gila River Health Care COVID-19 website at http://grhc.org/coronavirus_

It is important that each of us be vigilant with following all established safety practices. Constant changes occur on a daily basis; therefore, we're giving our best effort(s) to stay engaged with the Community. We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available or if modifications to any Orders are made.

Again, thank you for your patience, cooperation, and understanding. Let us continue to look out for and support one another.

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Help Stop the Spread

Even if you are young or otherwise healthy, you are still at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others.

It is critical that everyone does their part to stop the spread of the coronavirus:

- Wear a face mask/covering when out in public.
- Follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick and stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
- Do not visit nursing homes, retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe. A mix of regular bleach and water is sufficient to disinfect for cleaning
- Practice good hygiene:
 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after touching any frequently-used item or surface.
 - Avoid touching your face (eyes, nose, mouth).
 - Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.