

# Oglala Sioux Tribe Shelter-in-Place Order

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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### **What does it mean to “shelter in place”?**

“Shelter in place” means to stay in your home and not leave unless necessary for one of the designated exceptions.

### **When does this Shelter-in-Place Order become effective and how long does it last?**

This Order became effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 27, 2020. The Tribal Council will reevaluate it every 2 weeks. If the Tribal Council does not take action to rescind or extend, it will automatically end in 60 days at 11:59 p.m. on May 26, 2020.

### **What does this Order do?**

This Order requires most people to stay home in order to help slow the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. You can leave to perform “Essential Activities,” operate “Essential Businesses,” or to maintain “Essential Governmental Functions.”

- You are allowed to go to the store.
- You are allowed to go to the doctor.
- You are allowed to go outside to take care of pets, go on a walk, and just get outside, so long as you do not congregate in a group and maintain at least 6 feet of distance between you and other people.
- You are allowed to go to work if you fall within certain categories.

### **Who does this Order apply to?**

This Order applies to everyone. However, there are exemptions included.

### **Is this Order mandatory or is it just guidance?**

This Order is mandatory. Everyone is required to comply if they do not fall within the exemptions.

### **I’m healthy and I haven’t heard about cases on the Reservation. Why is this necessary?**

This Order is in place to address the potential spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Everyone is at risk. Some people who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus. Even people without symptoms can transmit the disease and it is easily spread, so gatherings can result in preventable transmission. It is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed.

### **What is the difference between “sheltering in place” and “social distancing”?**

Sheltering in place is a more stringent form of social distancing. Sheltering in place means: Stay home and only go out for “essential activities,” to work for an “essential business,” or for “essential travel.” Social distancing means: Stay 6 feet or more away from others and no gatherings.

### **What are “Social Distancing Requirements”?**

“Social Distancing Requirements” include:

- Staying at least 6 feet away from other people
- Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer
- Covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue or into the sleeve or elbow
- Regularly cleaning surfaces that are touched often
- Not shaking hands

### **What activities are considered essential?**

- Obtaining necessary services or supplies for you and your family, household members, and pets, or to deliver those services or supplies to others.
- Engaging in an outdoor activity such as walking, hiking, biking, or running
- Performing work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business.
- Caring for a family member or pet in another household.
- Attending and participating in funeral service

## **What kinds of businesses are considered essential, according to the Shelter-in-Place Order?**

The following are essential businesses:

1. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;
2. Grocery stores, farm and produce stands, food banks, c-stores, and other places that sell groceries and non-groceries, pet food and supply, and household products (such as cleaning and personal care);
3. Agriculture, food, and beverage cultivation, processing, and distribution (including farming, ranching, and fishing in order to preserve inventory and production);
4. Businesses that are necessary to support #3;
5. Businesses and Tribal programs that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
6. Businesses that are currently engaged in construction projects that promote and benefit the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation;
7. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
8. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
9. Banks and related financial institutions;
10. Hardware stores;
11. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and others who provide services necessary to maintaining safety, sanitation, and essential operation;
12. Businesses that support or provide Essential Infrastructure;
13. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
14. Educational institutions in order to facilitate distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of 6-feet per person is kept to the greatest extent possible;
15. Laundromats and laundry service providers;
16. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for drive-thru, delivery, or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food to students or the public may continue to do so only if the food is provided on a pick-up and take-away basis only;
17. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate or supply products needed for people to work from home;
18. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
19. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
20. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
21. Legal services;
22. Professional services, such as accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities.

## **What does “Healthcare Operations” include?**

“Healthcare Operations” include hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, other healthcare facilities and suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services, including air medics or other life flight services. It also includes veterinary care, but it does not include fitness and exercise gyms.

## **What does it mean to provide “Essential Infrastructure?”**

It means providing whatever work is necessary to the operation and maintenance of essential infrastructure – things such as public works construction, construction of housing (especially affordable housing or housing for homeless individuals), airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, roads and highways, solid waste collection, internet service, and telecommunication systems. (Services must be in compliance with social distancing requirements.)

## **What is “Essential Travel”?**

“Essential Travel” includes travel for any of the following purposes.

- Travel related to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses, or Minimum Basic Operations.
- Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
- Travel to or from educational institutions to receive materials for distance learning, to receive meals, and any other related services.
- Travel for residents to return home to the Reservation.
- Travel required by first responders, law enforcement, or court order.
- Travel required for non-residents to return to their home outside the Reservation.

### **What happens if I don't comply with this Order?**

This Order is a legal Order issued under the authority of Tribal law. You are required to comply, and not following the Order will subject you to a civil fine (although the intent is not for anyone to get into trouble). It is critical for everyone to follow the Order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect themselves, their loved ones, friends, neighbors and the whole community.

### **I heard the reservation borders are closed. Can I leave the Reservation to go grocery shopping?**

The Reservation borders are not closed at this time. This Shelter-in-Place order allows you to travel in and out of the Reservation for essential purposes, including grocery shopping. If possible, you should limit the number of household members going with you and maintain Social Distancing Requirements while out of the house.

### **Can I leave home to visit friends or family members if there is no urgent need?**

No. For your safety as well as their safety, we need to help each other fight the spread of COVID-19 by staying at home.

### **How will I get food and medicines I need if I must "shelter in place" in my home?**

The Order allows people to leave their home to buy food, obtain medicine, and purchase necessary items. It also encourages businesses selling and providing those items to remain open, and allows employees of those businesses to keep working.

### **Can I still seek non-essential medical care like eye exams, teeth cleaning, elective procedures, etc.?**

You should postpone these if possible. Check with your provider for specific guidance. They may cancel services. You should not expose yourself or others by pursuing health care or maintenance care that can wait a few weeks.

### **What medical and health-related activities are considered essential?**

Health care related to health maintenance related to chronic health conditions (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc.) or if you are sick or injured and need medical attention or medication refill. You can ask your health care advisor if an appointment is essential.

### **Should I stock up on food, necessities like toilet paper, and on medicines?**

No, you will continue to be able to purchase these items whenever you need them. Grocery stores, pharmacies and hardware stores will remain open. To ensure there is enough for everyone, please continue to buy normal quantities of these items on the same schedule you normally do.

### **Can I still get mail and deliveries?**

Yes. You will still be able to get mail and other deliveries at your home.

### **Can I still order the things I need online and have them delivered to my residence?**

Yes. Businesses that deliver goods or services directly to residences are "essential businesses" that may continue to operate.

### **I have a doctor appointment in Rapid City, can I go?**

Yes, you can go to the doctor. However, if the appointment is non-essential, you should consider postponing it. Your doctor might even cancel or reschedule it themselves.

### **I'm getting bored. Can I go outside for a walk or for a run?**

Yes, you can go for a walk or a run. You can even take your dog for a walk. However, you should always exercise Social Distancing Requirements as much as possible whenever you leave your home.

### **Does this violate my civil rights?**

No, this Order is based on a public health emergency. However, if you are concerned, you always have the option to file a court challenge.

### **Can I go to check on my grandma?**

Yes, you can travel to care for a relative. But, if you are sick you should self-isolate, and not travel.



### **I heard that funerals weren't allowed. Is that true?**

No, funerals are still permitted. However, Social Distancing Requirements should be followed to the greatest extent possible. Keep in mind that many funeral homes have voluntarily limited or streamlined services due to the size of public gatherings. The CDC has also issued guidelines for funerals for individuals who died from COVID-19.

### **Can I get my prescriptions or other health care needs? Can I leave home to go to the pharmacy?**

Yes. Pharmacies and other medical supply stores are allowed to operate. If possible, you should have your prescription delivered in an alternative manner. I.H.S. has a protocol in place for pharmacy pickup orders.

### **Can I visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility, or other residential care facility?**

Generally, no. There are limited exceptions specified in the Order. Many of these facilities are now prohibiting non-necessary visitation. Please contact the facility you want to visit by phone before you visit to inquire about the status of visits. This is difficult, but it is necessary in order to protect hospital staff and other patients.

### **My business isn't considered essential. Can I still go to work?**

If Employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, they can carry out "minimum basic operations" for all businesses. These include:

- The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related.
- The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences as applicable.

### **I want to travel to go to a ceremony. Will I get a ticket?**

No. This order is not intended to violate or prohibit traditional spiritual or religious practices. However, you should consult with your spiritual or religious advisors and use your best judgment before attending. You are encouraged to follow CDC guidelines and exercise Social Distancing Requirements to the greatest extent that you can, where possible.

### **Who is at high risk from COVID-19?**

The CDC definition for high risk individuals includes:

- People aged 65 years and older (however, the Tribe considers people aged 55 years and older to be high risk)
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Other high-risk conditions could include:
  - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
  - People who have serious heart conditions
  - People who are immunocompromised (many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation,
- immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications)
  - People of any age with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] >40) or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, or liver disease might also be at risk
- People who are pregnant should be monitored since they are known to be at risk with severe viral illness, however, to date data on COVID-19 has not shown increased risk

### **I traveled outside the reservation. Do I need to self-quarantine?**

Maybe. The Order recommends that everyone self-quarantine for 14 days after returning home from non-local travel and to immediately report any COVID-19 symptoms. You should assume that COVID-19 is present everywhere you have visited and traveled through.

If you traveled to a border town to buy groceries or essential supplies or for essential services (like an oil change or a doctor appointment), then you probably don't need to self-quarantine. But if you traveled further away (such as to Denver, Sioux Falls, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Washington, DC, etc.), then you are encouraged to self-quarantine.