

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM**

March 19, 2020

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002

Public Health Emergency Order Requiring Closure of the Chilchinbeto Community for Quarantine and Isolation (Shelter in Place) Purposes to Limit the Spread of COVID -19

On March 11, 2020 the Commission on Emergency Management declared a Public Health State of Emergency due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in areas surrounding the Navajo Nation, CEM 20-03-11, stating: *"Locally, it is acknowledged and understood that the threat of transmission of COVID-19 needs to be mitigated to reduce risk of exposure to the Navajo People and the resultant consequential public health impacts."*

On March 18, 2020, the Navajo Office of Environmental Health and Protection Program, Navajo Department of Health, designated herein as the Regulatory Authority, in accordance with its enabling legislation CO-50-14, declared the current outbreak of COVID-19 a condition of public health importance as a threat on an individual or community level and that can reasonably be expected to lead to adverse health effects in the community and which poses an imminent threat of substantial harm to the Navajo Nation population. (Public Health Order, *Public Health Emergency Order to Limit Mass Gatherings and Gatherings Due to COVID-19*).

On March 19, 2020, the Regulatory Authority deemed the Community of Chilchinbeto, Arizona as a "Hot Spot" due to the presence of seven (7) confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. Prior to hospitalization of these individuals, the degree of contact and subsequent degree of exposure is unknown in said community and suspected person-to-person spread within or outside said community thereby poses a substantial Public Health risk.

To mitigate the risk, the Community of Chilchinbeto, Arizona must be and is hereby closed to the public and to visitors. The purpose of the closure is to allow the community as a whole to isolate and quarantine. Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have the contagious COVID-19 virus. Isolation separates people who may be sick with COVID-19 from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

The intent of this Order is to ensure the maximum number of people in the Community of Chilchinbeto self-quarantine (showing no symptoms of sickness) or self-isolate (showing symptoms of sickness) in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while addressing the critically essential needs of the community and its members in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible. All provisions of this Order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent. Failure to comply

with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and creates an immediate menace to public health.

THEREFORE NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant the power and authority set forth in the Navajo Department of Health enabling legislation CO-50-14 and in conjunction with Navajo Nation declared Public Health State of Emergency CEM-20-03-11:

A. All individuals residing within the Chilchinbeto Community ("Community") shall limit their movement within and outside of the community, as well as limit their contact with other individuals who are not immediate family or household members. Navajo Nation Police Department will monitor ingress and egress in the Community. Individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following **"Essential Activities"**:

- i. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their immediate family or household members (including, but not limited to, livestock and pets), such as, obtaining critical medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional for an imminent health need.
- ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies such as canned food, dry goods, produce, pet supplies, meat, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residential living. The Commission on Emergency Management shall assist in coordinating emergency and disaster relief services directly to the Community in conjunction with the Navajo Department of Emergency Management and the Health Command Center.
- iii. To engage in daytime outdoor activity such as walking, hiking, or running, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements, defined as limiting contact of people within 6 feet from each other.

B. Visitors to the Chilchinbeto Community are directed to return home immediately upon the issuance of this Order by the fastest and safest available means.

C. All businesses within the Community, except Essential Businesses as defined herein, are required to cease all activities. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements. **"Essential Businesses"** include: Healthcare Operations, Essential Governmental Functions and Essential Infrastructure (e.g. courts of law, medical providers for urgent care, public utilities, and critical school operations such as nutrition programs).

D. For purposes of this Order, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, and law enforcement personnel, and others working for or to support Essential Businesses are categorically exempt from this Order. Further, nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing Essential Governmental Functions. Essential Government Functions means all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order declaring restrictions based upon the existence of a condition of public health importance shall not abrogate any disease-reporting requirements.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that it is greatly advised that the public take the following preventive precautions:

1. Navajo Nation citizens are strongly advised to stay home and undertake only those outings absolutely necessary for their health, safety, or welfare.

2. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

3. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

4. To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking with people, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hands or finger if you must touch something.

5. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.

6. Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, and cell phones).

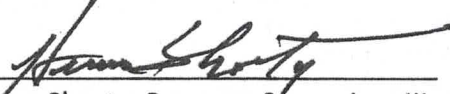
7. Avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated spaces. Your risk of exposure to respiratory viruses like COVID-19 may increase in crowded, closed-in settings with little air circulation if there are people in the crowd who are sick.

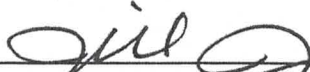
8. Avoid all non-essential travel including plane trips and cruise ships.

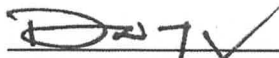
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take immediately and shall remain in effect until otherwise rescinded by the Regulatory Authority and or the Health Command Center.

For the purposes of this Order, the point of contact is David Nez, Incident Commander and questions or concerns from the Community can be addressed to the Navajo Nation COVID-19 hotline at (928) 871-6271.

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 19TH DAY OF MARCH 2020.


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