

ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE

Declaration of Emergency
March 13, 2020

I am declaring a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 Virus that has affected many people. I am troubled that our people do not currently have access to the CDC approved tests either from the CDC or Indian Health Service (IHS). I am also concerned that the State has not made available these tests for our people, especially our elders and our other vulnerable populations.

Schools throughout South Dakota will be closed next week. St. Francis Indian School is a chartered entity of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and will also be closed next week by this Declaration. This closure may be extended, if necessary.

I am also advising that the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Offices will be closed to the public effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 through the rest of the week. This closure may be extended, if necessary. Non-essential employees will be granted Admin Leave for the remainder of the week. Each department is expected to do as much deep cleaning as possible in their work areas while we are at work.

I would encourage all of our people to follow the recommendations of the CDC and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Avoid groups of 25 or more.

Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

I regret that this is necessary, but we have a responsibility to protect our people.

Rodney M. Bordeaux, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe

